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Afghan pullout to resume soon

THE SINKI (R) — The Finnish commander of the United Nations team monitoring the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan was quoted Friday as saying Moscow would resume its military pullout soon. "It will definitely resume before the rest of the troops leave for home," Major-General Sinki told the newspaper Helsingin Sanomat from Islamabad. The newspaper reported Helminen as saying the withdrawal would resume next month. The Afghan accord, signed in Geneva in April, called for Moscow to withdraw half its troops by August 15, a target U.N. officials say was met. The rest of the troops should be pulled out by Feb. 15. The U.N. secretary-general's representative on the Afghan issue, Diego Cordovez, said last month he had discussed the withdrawal with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze but declined to say when it might resume. The U.N. Security Council Friday scheduled a meeting on Afghanistan next Monday and a council source said it was to regularise the status of the U.N. peace mission already in the area.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Tunisia proposes EEC-type union

RABAT (R) — Tunisia has presented its Maghreb neighbours a draft treaty of union similar to the founding document of the European Economic Community, sources at a North African region meeting said Friday. They said Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche unveiled a draft "Maghreb community treaty" at a meeting of ministers from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, who are preparing a Maghreb summit. The Tunisian draft envisages a Maghreb community as a first step towards a comprehensive Arab unity, the sources said. It proposes unified policies in foreign affairs, finance, economy, information and education and suggests the community should have a parliament and a judiciary. The sources said all the five countries were agreed on cooperation in economic, educational and social affairs but more cautious about the political decisions needed to create the Maghreb union.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Travel agents pull out of Jerusalem meeting

LONDON (AP) — More than 1,000 British travel agents have pulled out of a tourism convention in occupied Jerusalem next week after receiving protests and boycott threats, a spokesman said Friday. Some 3,000 delegates had been expected at the four-day convention of the Association of British Travel Agents opening Monday, but just under 1,700 have registered, said association spokesman Martin Symington.

Kaunda heads towards massive poll win

LUSAKA (R) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, dispelling fears that his popularity might be waning, galloped towards reelection by an overwhelming vote Friday. Two days after presidential and parliamentary polls Wednesday, vote counting was proceeding slowly and announcement of complete returns was not expected before Sunday. Results from 75 of the 125 constituencies made clear that the 64-year-old Kaunda, who has ruled Zambia virtually unopposed since independence from Britain in 1964, had won massive backing to serve a sixth five-year term. He was unopposed.

Warsaw Pact ministers open session

BUDAPEST (AP) — A regular two-day meeting of the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers' committee opened Friday with Soviet and Eastern European leaders trying to improve their relations, a Hungarian official said. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the other six East bloc diplomatic chiefs attended the meeting, the official Hungarian news agency, MTI, reported.

Israel: Diplomat to take up Moscow post

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Friday that the Soviet Union had agreed to the appointment of a senior Israeli diplomat to head its consular team in Moscow. Foreign ministry officials said, however, the move did not signify that the two countries would soon renew full relations. A spokesman said the Kremlin had issued a two-month visa to Arie Leviv, deputy director-general of the foreign ministry, and he would arrive in Moscow Nov. 1.

Federal agents obtain warrant for Khashoggi

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal agents have obtained an arrest warrant for financier Adnan Khashoggi in connection with fraud and racketeering charges filed against him and deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. Meanwhile, the Saudi Arabian businessman is believed to be "lying low" in a European country while he consults with advisers about how he should respond to the fraud and racketeering indictment, the newspaper said. The Times, citing unnamed sources, said officials believe Khashoggi won't surrender to face the U.S. charges (see page 8).

South Yemeni president to visit Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — Omani and South Yemeni flags were hoisted side by side in the streets Friday amid preparations for President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas' visit to Muscat, the first ever to Oman by the head of the Aden government. Attas is due to arrive Saturday, climaxing efforts to ease political, ideological and border disputes that had prevailed since Yemen's independence from Britain in 1967. The visit was expected to last four days.

Some Soviet deputies vote against bill

MOSCOW (R) — A small group of deputies to the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet, made history Friday when they voted against two controversial decrees on public order passed earlier by the ruling Praesidium. Both decrees were passed by a majority vote. But the Soviet parliament, which meets only twice a year for a few days, usually gives unanimous approval to measures endorsed by the Praesidium, the highest state body. Thirteen deputies raised their hands against a decree requiring advance permission for street demonstrations and increasing penalties for illegal protests. Four delegates abstained. A second decree extending the powers of Interior Ministry troops, including the right to enter and search private dwellings, was rejected by 31 delegates from the 1,350 present at the session. Twenty-six abstained.

Bhutto may start campaign Monday

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has recovered from a kidney infection and may start her election campaign Monday, a spokesman for her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said Friday. Spokesman Iqbal Yusuf told reporters Bhutto planned to visit the Karachi slum area of Lyari Monday to start the campaign for the Nov. 16 general elections.

Hassan II postpones visit to Spain

MADRID (AP) — King Hassan of Morocco has postponed a state visit to Spain following Spain's vote in the United Nations in favour of direct negotiations between the Polisario front and Morocco over the future of the Western Sahara. The Spanish government said Friday. Spanish officials had described as very important the Nov. 8-11 trip, the first state visit by a Moroccan monarch to Spain.

2 Iranian diplomats leave Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Two Iranian diplomats, who were detained during an attempt to smuggle a dissident to Iran, returned home Friday on Turkey's request, a high-level official said. The Iranians were identified as Hamid Reza Karimu and Rasool Bagher Shayan. They were listed in the diplomatic list under the status of attaché. The official told the AP that Turkey asked Iran to send the diplomats home alleging that they organised the kidnapping of a dissident in cooperation with a group of pro-Khomeini Iranians.

Warsaw blames union for talks delay

WARSAW (AP) — The government has accused Solidarity of evading negotiations on the future of the banned trade union by refusing a preparatory meeting, but senior Solidarity members say authorities are to blame for the delay. "The group of former activists of Solidarity evaded direct talks with representatives of the authorities, talks which were aimed at removing the existing discrepancies and agreeing on the procedure of debates," government spokesman Jerzy Urban said. In a Thursday night statement issued by the state news agency PAP, Urban said Solidarity had set preconditions for the talks by refusing to drop two members of its team who did not respect Poland's "constitutional order."

Prague police break up anniversary rally

PRAGUE (R) — Riot police baton-charged a crowd of 5,000 who chanted demands for freedom on the 70th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia Friday. Hundreds of riot police with dogs charged into Wenceslas square in central Prague, beating demonstrators with batons, pummeling them with water cannon and firing tear-gas. The security forces moved in as soon as thousands began to sing the national anthem at a rally organised by the Charter 77 human rights movement and six other independent groups. It was one of the most extensive clampdowns on dissent in the country for many years.

King, Assad exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday contacted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and exchanged views with him on the current situation in the Arab region.

Jordan supports ordinary Arab summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh said that Jordan supports convening an ordinary Arab summit to discuss all issues of interest to the whole Arab Nation.

Jordan's position vis-a-vis holding the conference was voiced by His Majesty King Hussein, Khasawneh noted in a statement given Thursday to Agence France Presse.

Khasawneh reiterated Jordan's position towards Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. He pointed out that any remedy to the situation in Lebanon requires high-level consultations among the Arab leaders.

On prospects for holding an extraordinary Arab summit dedicated to the situation in Lebanon in case an ordinary Arab summit is not held, Khasawneh said Jordan had not studied its position towards this subject.



Queen Noor leads charity march

Her Majesty Queen Noor and several members of the royal family take part in a charity march Friday organised by the Jordanian Cancer Society and the Society for Care of Neurological Patients (see story on page 3)

Crown Prince addresses Club of Rome meeting

'Increased int'l cooperation vital for stability, progress'

PARIS (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delivered the keynote address at the 20th anniversary meeting here of the Club of Rome, a group concerned with world problems and the future of humanity.

The Crown Prince spoke about the need for increased international cooperation and coordination to promote world stability and progress.

In his address, called "Governability in Complexity and Uncertainty," which centred on the

capacity of independent governments to govern well, the Crown Prince said the ability to do this was no longer simply a domestic matter influenced by local factors in isolation. Events and incidents in one part of the world have a direct bearing on what happens elsewhere," he said.

Any government is impaired by the complexity of its functions and the variety of demands upon it by its citizens, the Crown Prince said. The process of modernisation in developing countries



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Polls predict Likud victory or stalemate

TEL AVIV (AP) — The right-wing Likud bloc will win Israel's upcoming general elections or the vote will end in a stalemate, according to election polls published Friday.

The four surveys indicate Likud, along with its right-wing and religious allies, will capture 56 to 65 seats in Tuesday's parliamentary elections.

The Labour Party and its left-wing partners are expected to take 46 to 55 seats, far short of the 61 delegates needed to form a majority in the 120-member Knesset, the polls said.

"There are two possibilities," political analyst and pollster Hanoth Smith told the Associated Press. "We can expect either another Labour-Likud coalition or a victory by Likud, aligned with its right-wing allies and the orthodox parties."

"On the other hand, not very many people would predict that Labour will be able to form a government," Smith said.

A survey taken by the Likud-aligned Modin Ezrahi shows Likud taking 43 seats and its allies another 22 for a winning 65 delegates.

"It seems that Likud will form the coalition and according to my calculations it will be a strong coalition," said Rafel Israeli, who conducted the poll, which was published in the Maariv daily.

A poll conducted by Machon Yisraeli, an independent polling

group, shows Likud and its partners capturing between 57 and 63 seats, while the Pori research institute, which is also non-aligned, shows Likud with a slight edge over Labour.

"It looks today that Likud is stronger than Labour, but no one knows what will happen on election day," said Rafel Gill, the director of PORI.

The three polls showed over 10 per cent of the voters were undecided.

If neither party can form a government, Labour and Likud could be forced to join together in a coalition like the one created after the stalemated 1984 elections.

But according to Modin Ezrahi, 46 per cent of Likud voters and 58 per cent of Labour supporters oppose continuing such a government.

Smith said his surveys show that as many as 75 per cent of the general electorate want "a decision one way or the other."

"But a majority say a standoff or a Likud government will emerge," he said.

The Labour-aligned pollster Tatzpit painted the brightest scenario for Labour, predicting its left-wing grouping would win 55 seats, while the Communist Hadash Party would take four and other Arab parties another four delegates. Labour has repeatedly refused to form a government with the Communists.



Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker receives U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci upon the American official's arrival here on a several-day visit Friday (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Carlucci lauds King's commitment to peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci arrived here Friday heading an American military delegation on a several-day official visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials.

Carlucci will also head the American side to the meetings of the Joint-Jordanian American Military Commission.

In an arrival statement, Carlucci voiced appreciation for the efforts made by King Hussein for peace in the region.

"As significant events take place in this area, the United States is reassured by Jordan's continued commitment to the peace process," he told reporters upon arrival.

"Likewise, the commitment of the United States to peace and the process needed to bring about peace remains firm."

Carlucci said that for 35 years American leaders had valued Jordan's positions and counsel as "astute reflections of (King Hussein's) strong desire for peace and stability for the Kingdom of Jordan and the entire region."

Carlucci, who is accompanied by his wife and a high-level military delegation, was received by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Mawri, Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, Royal Court Secretary General Bassam Al Saket and senior officials.

Fadlallah: Anti-Israeli attacks will increase

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Increasing numbers of suicide and military attacks will be carried out against Israelis by Hizbollah fighters in Lebanon, the group's spiritual leader said in remarks published Friday.

Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah told the Arabic newspaper Al Itihad that Hizbollah would also treat as Israelis any Christians who tried to set up a state in Lebanon.

of partition as rival factions fight for power.

"I do not expect partition of Lebanon but if it happened, then we will fight the Christian state because it will be hostile to Muslims, and we will deal with it as we deal with Israel," the paper quoted Fadlallah as saying.

But he added that Hizbollah also opposed plans to try to set up a purely Islamic state, because it would not have solid support at all levels.

Lebanon, in a letter published Friday, strongly condemned an Israeli air attack Wednesday near Sidon which it said killed 15 people and wounded 40, and reserved the right to request a U.N. Security Council meeting.

The letter, from Lebanese U.N. representative Rashid Fakhoury to Secretary General

Javier Perez de Cuellar, also complained that the United Nations and the Security Council had remained silent.

The United States Thursday refrained from criticising Israel directly for the raids against Lebanon.

Asked to comment on the raids, State Department spokesman Charles Redman reaffirmed the U.S. position that "all the parties must keep in mind that the pattern of action and reaction and continuing violence in Lebanon has a negative impact which serves the interest of no one."

Velayati in Syria

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati unexpectedly arrived in Damascus Friday and immediately held talks on Lebanon with President Hafez Al Assad, the Syrian News Agency (SANA) said.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei, speaking at Friday prayers in Tehran, said Israel should rule in Lebanon, so as to enable the Zionists to gain control of occupied Palestine.

"Unfortunately, no serious measures have been taken by the Arab and Islamic countries in this respect, and only Syria has reacted in the face of these issues," Khamenei said.

Israelis detain Palestinian journalists, unionists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli forces in occupied Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank rounded up at least 30 Palestinian journalists and trade unionists in an overnight swoop, family and colleagues said.

Palestinian sources said the arrests seemed aimed at preempting heightened anti-Israeli protest in coming weeks as Israelis vote in a general election and Palestinian leaders abroad debate declaring an independent Palestinian state.

Among those arrested were Mohammad Abu Libdeh, an editor of the Al Fajr daily and executive member of the Arab Journalists Association, and Sami Khoury, of the French news agency Agence France Presse.

"Police came to our Ramallah home at one o'clock Friday morning and took Saman away, they said nothing, gave no reasons," Khoury's wife Anita told Reuters.

An army spokeswoman would not confirm or deny the reports. Arab Journalists Association head Radwan Abu Ayyash said

four of the association's nine-man executive committee were now being held without trial.

Other members, including Abu Ayyash, have been jailed without trial for periods of up to six months since the outbreak last December of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Israeli troops shot and wounded two Palestinians aged 11 and 13 during protests in the West Bank's Tulkarem refugee camp and wounded one in a clash at the Farrah camp, later placing Farrah under curfew, reports said.

In other developments, the Israeli army magazine "be-mahane" said a soldier who shot dead a five-year-old Palestinian in the West Bank city of Nablus last week opened fire without justification.

(Continued on page 4)

Mubarak briefs Arab leaders on developments

CAIRO (Agencies) — In an effort to coordinate Arab positions towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, President Hosni Mubarak has sent messages to Arab heads of state informing them of recent developments in Middle East peace efforts.

Foreign Ministry sources said the messages dealt with Mubarak's summit meetings last weekend with His Majesty King Hussein, Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The messages also addressed the Lebanese problem, said a ministry official speaking to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The Al Ahram newspaper, in its early Friday edition, said that Mubarak had sent similar messages to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China. It said messages to other European countries, as well as countries belonging to the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) were sent.

The talks among the King, Mubarak and Arafat in Aqaba were also reviewed in a meeting in Cairo Thursday between Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and Arab ambassadors.

Abdul Meguid urged Arab leaders to consider convening an Arab summit to discuss a united Arab stand on future peace moves, Sudanese Ambassador Elamin Abdul Latif Elamin told reporters after the meeting.

The meetings last Saturday and Sunday were aimed at mapping out a common strategy to bring about an international peace conference involving the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and the parties directly concerned in the Middle East.

Mubarak first met with the King and the PLO leader in Aqaba, and flew with Arafat to Baghdad for the meeting with Saddam Hussein.

Abdul Meguid was quoted as saying by the Washington Post in an interview published Friday that the PLO, in the forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council, would rely on United Nations Resolution 181 as part of the basis for a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Abdul Meguid, without being specific, indicated the PLO would also seek to have Resolution 181 combined in some matter with Resolution 242.

"You have to add to 242 what is missing, not destroy it," Abdul Meguid said.

U.S. to ship new embassy to Moscow

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has said it will prefabricate a new embassy building free of listening devices in America and ship it under guard to Moscow to replace a newly-constructed embassy riddled with Soviet "bugs."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Thursday that the new building, whose main elements would be fabricated in the United States and assembled under guard in the Soviet capital, would incorporate the latest in high technology security devices.

President Reagan said Thursday earlier a building constructed in Moscow to replace the present U.S. embassy would have to be torn down because it was riddled with sophisticated Soviet listening devices.

Work on the building was started in 1983 but was stopped in 1985 when it was discovered that listening devices had been incorporated into the structure.

But funds for the rebuilding, which some estimates put as high as \$300 million on top of the \$22 million already spent, must be approved by Congress, which does not reconvene until January, and the approval process could be lengthy.

Redman said it was hoped to start work on the new building "as rapidly as possible."

The United States must secure Soviet cooperation for the project and some lawmakers are determined to obtain recompense from the Kremlin for the embarrassing and expensive situation in which the United States now finds itself.

The State Department has already presented the Soviet Union with claims for \$29 million in damages for shoddy workmanship and construction, the Washington Post said Friday. The claims would be considered by an independent arbitrator.

The newspaper added that it was told by unnamed State Department officials that further claims for damages resulting from the Soviet planting of spy devices in the building were being considered.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS: His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Turkish President Kenan Evren on the occasion of Turkey's National Day in which he wished Evren continued good health and happiness and the Turkish people continued progress and prosperity (Petra).

NEW ENVOYS TO EGYPT, CHILE: Egyptian Foreign Minister Jemal Abdul Meguid has received a copy of the credentials of Jordan's new ambassador to Egypt Nabih Al Nimer who has formerly served as Foreign Ministry Secretary General. Jordan's Ambassador designate to Chile Walid Touqan presented his credentials in Santiago to Chile's President Augusto Pinochet (Petra).

NEW UAE AMBASSADOR: The Jordanian government has accepted the nomination of Mr. Mohammad Jassem Ali Shukur to serve as United Arab Emirates ambassador to Jordan. Shukur will succeed Abdullah Mohammad Al Shurafa, who had served as his country's ambassador in Jordan since 1982 (Petra).

SYRIAN MEETINGS: Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid met in Damascus on Thursday with deputy prime minister Salim Yassin and discussed Jordanian-Syrian economic cooperation. Hadid later met with Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasser Qaddour (Petra).

2 jailed for possession of arms, drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced two Jordanians for trafficking with dangerous drugs and a third for illegal possession of fire arms. Hashish and Abdullah Abu Subih received a two-year jail sentence and a fine of JD 1,000 for a similar offence. Shihadeh Husni was sentenced to two months in jail and the payment of a JD 100 fine for possessing fire arms.

Conference urges use of solar power for cooling

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A three-day conference on air conditioning and refrigeration ended in Amman on Thursday with a set of recommendations issued by the participants at the final session summing up the deliberations and discussion of 28 working papers on the subject. The statement called on Arab countries to make maximum benefit from solar power for refrigeration in industrial operations and to step up efforts to employ waste in the process of producing energy for refrigeration.

The statement urged Arab countries to intensify research work in preserving and transporting refrigerated food and in the application of refrigeration processes in agricultural fields. The participants, who represented 14 Arab and foreign countries, discussed a wide range of subjects including refrigeration and air conditioning equipment and solar power for industrial and domestic purposes, according to a spokesman for the Jordan Engineers Association IEA which organised the meeting.

He said rationalising energy consumption and control of the quality of manufactured products and components used in air conditioning and refrigeration processes were among the topics taken up by the delegates.



The picture shows (from left) Nigel Page, BA regional sales manager, presents Peter Welbeck with his certificate, while Brian Cannadine receives his award from Peter Spencer, BA general manager, Middle East.

BA Amman manager gets award

Two British Airways (BA) Middle East country managers have received awards for the excellence of their work under difficult conditions. Peter Welbeck, Manager Iraq, and Brian Cannadine, formerly Manager Sudan and currently Manager Jordan, received BA award certificates during a recent managers meeting in Cairo. "These corporate awards recognise the tremendous achievements of these managers in representing the customer service and sales operations of British Airways in Iraq, while we were off-line, and in Sudan in a very difficult work environment. Their achievements demonstrate British Airways' commitment to excellence," said Peter Spencer, BA Regional Manager.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- A paintings exhibition by Sudanese artist Mohammad Khalil, at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- Drawing of cities, gardens, and commercial centres by German Artist Otto Herbert Hayek at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- An art exhibition by Ahmed Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre.
- A plastic art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri at the Housing Bank Complex.
- A paintings exhibition by Hind Nasser at the Royal Cultural Centre.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

- Annual book exhibition at Prince Hassan Secondary School, Karak.
- Book exhibition at the Salt Cultural Centre.
- A cultural festival which includes national historical documents exhibition, book exhibition and other activities, at Ajloun Elementary School.
- An educational technology exhibition at the Yarmouk University.

LECTURE

- A lecture entitled "the development of nationalism in Jordan" by Amin Shuqair at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FORUM

- An Arabic-Dutch literature forum in which Arab and German authors and poets will introduce their literary works at the Goethe Institute 7:00 p.m.

Jordanian, Egyptian ministers discuss joint drug company

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt have agreed to organise two seminars on primary health care to be held in Egypt and Jordan in the coming year, in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Agreement was reached by Egyptian Health Minister Mohammad Dweidar who is currently visiting Jordan, and Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

The first seminar will be held in Egypt in March while the second will be organised in Jordan during September 1989 with the purpose of highlighting the importance of primary health care for citizens in both countries, according to a statement following the meetings in Amman on Thursday.

Both sides, the statement said, also agreed on an exchange of expertise, and visits by health officials from both sides to help promote the work of the primary health centres in the two countries.

Hamzeh and Dweidar discussed the question of drug registration, the establishment of a joint company to provide primary drug materials and agreed on seconding Egyptian midwives to Jordan and training Jordanian health



Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, his Egyptian counterpart Mohammad Dweidar and officials from both sides hold talks in Amman.

care workers in Egyptian institutions. It said that they also discussed the prospect of benefiting from health regulations and laws now in force in either country.

Hamzeh presented Dweidar with the Health Ministry's Shield in recognition of his endeavours in health-related affairs, according to the statement which said that senior officials and aides to the two ministers attended the

Road accidents total 637, claim 13 lives in 1st half of October

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two people were slightly injured and four vehicles were damaged in a road accident which occurred at the district of Khulda in western Amman Thursday.

A spokesman for the Civil Defence Department, which was called on for help, said that the accident occurred when a truck driver, trying to avoid a collision with a bulldozer swerved to the right and hit a nearby petrol station.

The driver was exceeding the speed limit and his truck was loaded with 15 tonnes of cement instead of 11 tonnes at the time of the accident, the spokesman said.

The truck hit three parked cars before finally colliding with the

front side of the petrol station, sustaining heavy damage itself and causing extensive damage to the station. He said civil defence men carried the injured to hospital for treatment.

According to a statistical bulletin issued Thursday by the Public Security Department, a total of 637 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom in the first half of October 1988 resulting in the death of 13 persons and the injury of 412 others.

A department spokesman said most of the accidents resulted from excessive speed, uncalculated overtaking attempts and careless driving. 161 of these accidents involved pedestrians being knocked down by cars.

In reports of further accidents Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday, carried the story Friday of civil defence men Thursday who rescued five persons who had fallen in an unused water well in Zarqa.

A hospital spokesman where the five had been taken for treatment said they were all suffering from near suffocation due to lack of oxygen in the well.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily reported a fire at the warehouses of a local company manufacturing tissue paper. The fire, which occurred in Marka district, was said to have caused JD 40,000 worth of damage, and investigation was underway to determine the causes of the fire.

Conference urges establishment of Arab Cardiologists' Society

AMMAN (Petra) — The first conference by the Jordanian Cardiac Society (JCS) ended here Friday with a call for establishing an Arab Cardiologists Society with representatives from all Arab countries.

Dr. Daoud Hanania was elected as president of the society and Dr. Khairi Abdul Daem from Egypt as Vice President and Dr. Muhammad Tashid Abdul Faqih from Saudi Arabia as secretary general.

The conference also called for the establishment of an executive committee which would include two representatives from each Arab country and would hold their first meeting in Cairo in February. The meeting of the committee would come at the same time as the Egyptian cardiac society meeting.

The first meeting from the Arab Cardiology Society will be held also in Cairo in the year 1990 with the stipulation that its general secretariat would prepare for its meeting and will adopt Amman as its base.

Participants in the conference also called for stronger cooperation between Arab cardiologists in their field through greater exchange of information and bilateral visits and discussion of relevant research.

They also called for the development of more heart centres in the Arab World and the increase of heart specialists by sending candidates on scholarships to the developed centres of the world.

The conference called for the development of primary health care in the Arab World by de-

creasing the cases of heart valve infections and finding economically viable ways to support scientific activities connected to heart medicine and surgery. The recommendations also called for media concentration on the danger of smoking and its effect on the heart.

Participants in the first Jordan Cardiac Society conference concluded their meetings in Amman Friday and sent a cable of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein for his patronage of the conference and expressed pride in his tireless efforts for the interest of all citizens.

They also sent a cable to Her Majesty Queen Noor thanking her for attending the conference's opening on behalf of King Hussein.

CHE sets Nov. 30 deadline for private university investors

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A committee charged with preliminary work for the establishment of a private university in Jordan Thursday decided on Nov. 30 as the last date for registration by shareholders wishing to invest in the project.

The meeting, which was held at the Ministry of Labour, was

attended by the ministry's Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh the director of the Jordanian Expatriates Department and committee representatives in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

The idea of opening a private university was endorsed by the fourth Jordanian Expatriates Conference last summer and a

special committee was set up to follow up the subject.

Earlier, this year, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad announced that plans were going ahead for the establishment of the private university in Zarqa, and that the ministry would provide assistance towards implementation.

Experts discuss ways to provide people protection against AIDS

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry's Primary Health Care Department Thursday organised a one-day seminar on combating the killer disease acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Specialists in health affairs,

directors of health departments in various regions along with 50 doctors attended the seminar which discussed means of providing protection to the public against the disease.

Several specialists spoke at the seminar, calling for the distribu-

tion of pamphlets to school and university students and to introduce other means to educate the public against the dangers of the disease.

Two AIDS carrier cases were discovered in Jordan last month raising to 15 the total number.

WHO director to arrive for talks on special school health curriculum

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) eastern Mediterranean Regional Director Hussein Al Gezairi arrives here next week for talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan

Hindawi and Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh on prospects for integrating a special school health curriculum, prepared by WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the school curricula.

The curriculum includes a guide, a teacher's book and a number of national guidebooks.

The project has received the approval of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Nearly 2,000 take part in Charity march

AMMAN (J.T.) — Along with approximately 2,000 sports enthusiasts, Her Majesty Queen Noor and a number of Royal Family members Friday took part in the second Charity march organised by the Jordanian Cancer Society (JCS) and the Society for Care of Neurological Patients (SCNP).

He said the funds will also be used for the training and education of "cancer care" social workers to help families of cancer victims deal with their respective cases.

Two JCS staff members have been sent for six-month training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in the U.S. Upon their return, they will work at both Al Bashir and University hospitals where their salaries will be paid by the society, Turk said.

A number of ambassadors and wives of ministers took part in the march.

The march was expected to raise JD 100,000 in funds. It covered a distance of 28 kilometres, starting from the Plaza Hotel passed through the fourth to eighth circles to the Nazek Al Hariri Centre for Special Education and back to the Plaza Hotel through Mecca Street, around the Jubilee Circle through the Gardens Street passing by the Professional Associations Building and the Shmeisani Ats Ali.

for establishing early detection centres for such cases.

Last month, JCS President Walid Al Turk said that with the funds collected, the JCS plans to set up a special fund to help the needy heads of families who are victims of cancer.

Mrs. Nazek Al Hariri donated an amount of \$100,000 in support of the march.

Last year the SCNP organised a 450 kilometre 10-day march from Ramtha in the north to Aqaba in the south, and raised JD 65,000. SCNP representative Nadia Al Alami last month said part of that amount was used to treat between 50 and 60 neurological patients.

The funds collected from Friday's march are to be used for the treatment of some neurological and cancer patients, for projects of health education about neurological and cancer cases, as well as



Her Majesty Queen Noor and several members of the royal family take part in a charity march in Amman Friday (Petra photo)

Khayyat, Rawabdeh attend opening of public garden, book exhibition

AMMAN — A public garden and a book exhibition were opened at Umm Qusair and Muqablain district and Qweismeh in the course of the Kingdom's celebrations of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh

attended the opening ceremonies along with other officials from Amman municipality, which built the garden on a five dunum plot of land together with a playground.

Khayyat opened an Islamic book exhibition also organised by the Greater Amman Municipality

at Qweismeh. On display are 700 books including 200 specially written to educate children in religious affairs.

Prior to the exhibition, the minister attended a religious performance, and listened to songs by children from Qweismeh and Abu Alanda.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh inspect the items on display at an Islamic book exhibition at Qweismeh during the course of celebrations of the Prophet Mohammed's Birthday (Petra photo)

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday commented on Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's directives to heads of public departments calling on them to reduce and rationalise spending; and said they were in line with the new government policies designed to help Jordan adapt to the current stage of recession that is prevailing in the Middle East region. The prime minister's directives in fact are directed to the private and public sectors and to all citizens of this country, which is facing new economic challenges, the paper noted. It said that reduction of spending and rationalisation of the use of foreign currency is not a difficult task, and is not a heavy sacrifice, but rather a return to reason and to rational behaviour. Measures adopted by the government departments are meant to serve as an example for the private sector, and therefore, everyone has responsibility towards the country and towards helping it to overcome the present difficulties, the paper noted.

AL DUSTOUR daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's statement published in the London-based Al Haya newspaper in which he discussed issues of prime concern to the Arab Nation. The King tackled the political and economic aspects of Arab life and called for a summit meeting to handle the Lebanese question and a pan-Arab effort to form an economic market similar to the European Economic Community in order to promote the Arab cause. The King displayed keenness on the fate of the Lebanese people and is rallying Arab efforts to help the Arab brothers in the embattled country to find peace, the paper said. It said the King's call on Arab states to pool their economic resources showed his interest in bolstering the economic power of the Arab World.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also commented on the King's statement and described it as rekindling a new hope in the heart of the Arab masses. The King has shown his concern to save the Lebanese people from further disasters and tragedies and is rallying the Arabs to come to the help of their brothers, the paper added. In his statement, the paper added, the King reiterated Jordan's call for an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about peace to the Middle East. The King's statement, the paper concluded, showed clear determination to provide real service to the Arab people in different parts of the Arab World.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i commented on King Hussein's interview with Al Haya daily in which he discussed the need to save Lebanon and the Lebanese from further tragedies. The King voiced support for an Arab summit meeting to discuss Lebanon because the paper said, the situation there has become critical and many powers within and outside the country were influencing the events. The King, the paper added, has always shown keenness on maintaining the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon; and therefore he is now prepared to discuss the subject with Arab heads of state to help find a solution to that country's problems. The paper quoted the King as saying that Jordan was holding contacts with Arab states for economic unity among them along the lines of the European Community, and said such step was essential for the Arabs to confront the numerous economic challenges they are facing at present.

Al Dustour dwelt on the same subject and said that King Hussein has felt the pains and the sufferings of the Lebanese people, and has always been concerned over the future of Lebanon. This time the paper noted the King is calling for a meeting among Arab leaders to help the Lebanese people overcome their present difficulties and problems, and to re-establish peace in their country. The paper echoed the King's concern over the situation in Lebanon which, it said, reached a critical stage, threatening disasters, and called for mobilisation of Arab efforts to help end the ordeal of the Lebanese. A summit meeting, said the paper, is inevitable if the Arabs are determined to help their Lebanese brothers find a permanent solution.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Rescue the humans

Writing in Al Dustour, guest columnist Talat Shams'a refers to the East-West cooperation over the past week to save two whales trapped by ice in Alaska. This cooperation which involved icebreakers, helicopters and other sophisticated equipment and human skill led to the final freedom of the two animals suffering from the cruelty of nature, says the writer. Even when they were trapped in the ice, the two superpowers coordinated efforts to provide the whales with oxygen under the ice to save their lives, the writer added. Comparing the ordeal of the whales with that of the Palestinian people who are now trapped under Israeli arbitrary rule, the writer says it is time for Moscow and Washington to pool their efforts to end the sufferings of the Palestinians. The death of 400 Palestinian citizens and the injury of more than 28,000 others in addition to those detained or deported from their homes should be cause enough for the two superpowers to coordinate their efforts for a just and durable peace in the region, the writer notes. He says the two superpowers which have shown pity on the two whales in Alaska and came to their rescue ought now to look towards human beings in despair suffering from the cruelty of mankind.

Aga Khan Award for Architecture:

Rescuing the humane dwelling

The following is a summary of the proceedings of a seminar, organised by the Geneva-based Aga Khan Award for Architecture, that concluded on Oct. 16 at the Tanzanian capital, Zanzibar.

RAPID demographic growth and deteriorating economic conditions in rural areas are adding millions more people every year to the already overcrowded cities of the Third World.

A number of new approaches to the chronic shortage of housing that results were formulated at the international seminar on the architecture of housing that ended in Zanzibar, Tanzania on Oct. 16, 1998.

The seminar, organised by the Geneva-based Aga Khan Award for Architecture included visits by participants to the historic stone town of Zanzibar as well as Mombasa and the island of Lamu in Kenya. The aim of these site visits was to use the presence of more than 60 of the world's leading architects, urban planners and other experts concerned with building, to draw international attention to the rich heritage along the East African coast that is threatened by the encroachment of inappropriate construction and lack of funds for restoration.

His Highness the Aga Khan, chairman of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture told an audience in Zanzibar of representatives that "the lack and deterioration of human habitation as economies grow, urbanisation accelerates and demographics explode pose some of the greatest practical and ethical problems that developing countries face."

President Hassan Ali Mwinyi who attended the opening session of the seminar said that Zanzibar was an ideal location to discuss so international an issue as housing because for centuries the island had been a meeting point of north and south, east and west.

Charles Correa, an Indian architect from Bombay and a member of the Aga Khan Award's master jury, said that the Third World's cities were having to play the same role as North America and Australia did for Europe's growing population during the nineteenth century. The long-term answer to the population explosion would have to be found. But in the meantime it was vital to make cities better at absorbing their increasing population.

Grim testimony

More than 540 million people have been added to Third World cities over the past thirty years. Correa warned, however, against simply adding up these frightening numbers and producing a centralised response. The grim multi-storey blocks that are so typical of today's urban areas are testimony to the failure of this approach. They are a blight on their inhabitants in the industrialised world, but are even more inappropriate in developing countries where they bear no relation to culture or life-style, Correa said.

Architects must provide city dwellers not with "piled-up boxes" but with a whole range of spaces from private living quarters to the piazza or stoop outside a house where neighbours can discuss, and larger places of religious or social gathering. It is vital to involve people themselves in the process of designing their space if it is to be well adapted to local conditions, said Correa.

Ismail Serageldin, an Egyptian architect-cum-planner from the World Bank and member of the Aga Khan Award's steering committee, contrasted the sterility of the bare geometry of repetitive slab-blocks, so characteristic of public housing everywhere, with the "organic" qualities that "spontaneous" settlements exhibit despite the miserable and insanitary conditions that usually prevail in these slums which account for the vast majority of the built environment in the Third World.

Despite their glaring shortcomings, slab-blocks do provide a potentially healthy and serviced environment. Why could this not be combined with the individualised organic quality of spontaneous settlements, Serageldin asked. Beyond the economic factors, he said there are institutional political and financial reasons whose solution, while well-known, means empowering the weak and disenfranchised members of society to take their destinies into their own hands.

Serageldin also pointed to what he saw as a second fundamental problem in most of the Islamic world: The models that have defined the historical and cultural standard of aesthetics have usually been monumental and rich, structures, typified by the Taj Mahal, while the reality for Muslim people today, from Mauritania to Indonesia, is one of poverty.

Mona Serageldin, associate director of the Aga Khan programme for Islamic architecture unit for housing and urbanisation at Harvard University, distinguished between two types of shelter on the fringes of Third World cities: Squatter settlements and informal housing.

Squatters have no legal rights to the land they occupy and their makeshift shacks reflect their fear of forcible eviction and clearance. Homeowners in informal settlements have purchased their plots from individuals who, rightly or wrongly, claim ownership. They quickly demolish their squatter shacks and replace them, within the constraints of the small size and odd shapes in the squatter settlements, with housing built of desirable materials.

Ms. Serageldin said that this unplanned, unregulated and often unserviced informal sector is now responsible for 60 per cent of all new housing in the Third World. It had given rise to all kinds of excesses such as speculation and land grabbing, but it also demonstrated that security of tenure and access to homeownership are crucial incentives in mobilising the funds and energy needed to solve the housing crisis in the Third World. Architects should accept that it is a reality and be more creative about improving conditions in the informal sector instead of shunning it as unaesthetic, she said.

The informal sector

Lessons learned from the informal sector are behind an innovative housing scheme in Hyderabad, Pakistan. Tasneem Siddiqui, director general of the Hyderabad Development Authority, said the starting point was analysis of the success of the informal sector. The result is a programme that provides the urban poor with shelter and a standard of development within their means. The authority had purchased a large plot of land on

the outskirts of Hyderabad which it has divided up into plots. These are then equipped with minimum services. At first just access to water and transport. A very modest down-payment provides legal title and the family can occupy its plot immediately, thus cutting out the time-lag between purchase and occupation that is the bane of most public housing projects.

Only in the longer-term are improvements made, such as house-to-house water supply, sewerage, electricity and gas. These are financed by the individual householders who continue to pay monthly instalments to the Hyderabad Development Authority. The pace and nature of this incremental development is decided by elected committees of plot-owners. Speculation is eliminated by requiring the whole family, with all its possessions, to move onto these plots and start constructing its shelter from the first day of the purchase. Two thousand seven hundred families have already been accommodated.

'Extension of the human body'

The seminar then turned from what Hasan-Uddin Khan, an architect and editor, described as the "process" of housing to the "product" in a paper given jointly by Khan and Charles Moore, an American architect and member of the Aga Khan Award's steering committee. The authors said that in most traditional societies the house is an extension of the human body. "In countries across the Third World, people with hardly any means construct themselves shelters rather than moving into the deadly anonymity of state-building housing blocks."

The paper then focused on why in the authors' view, the houses of the rich are the major indicators of architectural change, filtering down the aspirations and models of self-image that they represent to the rest of society.

These links between the buildings of the rich and poor demonstrated that housing was not only a process but a continuum of cultural expression.

The role of the architect was the final theme of the seminar. John de Monchaux, dean of architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the Aga Khan Award's steering committee, agreed that architects should be closely involved in the making of housing by using more emphatically other specialised problem-solving skills.

"The special contribution of the architect is to prescribe the forms for housing that will please its users and persuade the rest of us that particular kinds of problems can be elegantly and handsomely solved," he said.

For Ismail Serageldin, architects are the "custodian of a society's self-image, the articulators of its aesthetic norms and the form-givers who erect the models that bear witness to their times... architects practising in the Islamic world should be encouraged to live up to that demanding role," Serageldin said.



A street in old Sana — the house as an extension of the human body

Professor Saad Eddin Ibrahim, who teaches sociology at the American University of Cairo and is a member of the Aga Khan Award's master jury, said that the alienating forms so characteristic of contemporary mass-housing are due in part to the fact that the architect is no longer part of the society he serves. "He needs to be reintegrated into the community."

The Aga Khan, in his concluding remarks, said that the architect must understand the community or family for which he is building, otherwise his diagnosis will be wrong. "The architect must not just be a master of form but a communicator if we are to meet the challenge of providing housing in the years ahead."

The seminar was organised by the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The award was set up a decade ago to make architects, and others concerned with building, aware of the vitality of Islamic cultures while encouraging architecture appropriate to the needs of the twentieth century.

This is done both by honouring specific projects every three years with prizes worth up to \$500,000 and by establishing a process of continuing debate. Integral to this process is a series of seminars, each of which serves as a forum where critical issues affecting the built environment of Muslims can be addressed by local and international participants.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

'Increased int'l cooperation vital for stability

(Continued from page 1)

sometimes creates more problems than it solves, he said.

Most governments have found it difficult to deal with the ensuing social and economic problems, the rise of consumerism and the loss of traditional values and standards of ethics, the Crown Prince said.

He said that the anxiety of developing countries to achieve a higher standard of living, coupled with the enthusiasm of international bankers to lend enormous sums have led to huge international debts which most countries could not afford to repay. This put them in financial straight-jackets causing the abandonment of their development programmes.

These debts, the Crown Prince said, may have to be written off and will remain permanent monuments to the folly of man. The importance of international cooperation is evident in the problems caused by natural and

man-made disasters, he said. The floods, drought and famine affecting one country are often caused by the pollution or deforestation in another. Any country's ability to govern properly depends on the way in which international relations are conducted.

In order to secure a more certain future for the world it is necessary to alleviate the problems facing the various governments, the Crown Prince added. A broader regional focus is required to overcome narrow concepts of national interest, he said.

The Crown Prince said that a lasting solution to the problems of poverty and underdevelopment can only be found on the basis of integration in the world economy.

In Europe, as the 1992 deadline for the dismantling of barriers approaches, the European Economic Community (EEC) provides a model that will hopefully supplant the out of date blue-

prints still being advocated in Israel and elsewhere in the Middle East, he said.

"It is with this spirit that Jordan has been advocating the idea of regional and inter-regional programmes for economic development," he said. "Regional perspectives can only serve to

underpin global peace and prosperity."

The Crown Prince voiced optimism over the outcome of the dialogue which Jordan has initiated on these issues with a number of regional countries and others from the leading industrial nations.

Israelis detain journalists

(Continued from page 1)

The magazine said the soldier fired in the air in violation of standing orders, and that a "stray" bullet hit the boy. Deyaa Fayed.

Fayed died Oct. 18 after being hit by plastic bullets in the chest, stomach and left hand, according to hospital officials. He was the youngest of the 312 Palestinian killed since the start of the uprising.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday that peace talks with the Palestinians would

be impossible without Arab countries playing a role.

In an interview with the AP, Shamir also said he believed active involvement by the United States could further the Middle East peace process.

Shamir insisted that any move towards peace would have to come under the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords.

He repeated his objections to an international Middle East Peace conference that is supported by Foreign Minister and Labour leader Shimon Peres.

Encouraging position

The following letter was sent to U.S. Secretary of Defence Frank C. Carlucci by Karen Asfour, president of the Amman-based Bassira-Insight.

ON BEHALF of Bassira, an organisation of International Women living in Jordan, I would like to express our appreciation to you for your recent remarks made at Marshall University, which stressed "Washington's lack of realism in its Middle East policy."

Many of us have spent years exposed to the repercussions of this "lack of realism" and have experienced first hand the validity of your statement that "local tensions in the Middle East hold the potential for escalation". Your position that U.S. defence cooperation with moderate Arab states, in reality, does not pose a threat to Israel, is encouraging, to say the least.

We thank you for your courage in exposing Congress irresponsibility toward Middle East policy, despite the opposition you might receive from them. We hope that your visit here will be a success and that you will continue to influence those in decision-making positions even after you are no longer with this present administration.

Anyone for peace?

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

AMMAN — Whether hawk or dove rises from the dust of Israel's election battle, the world looks to the victor to deliver peace with the Palestinians and Arab states.

Israelis have the choice on Nov. 1 between what many see as the iron fist of Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, the silken glove of his Labour rival Shimon Peres or a hand-in-glove coalition.

During the past 11 months the world's perceptions of Israel have been coloured by nightly images of violence.

Television viewers around the globe have witnessed unequal battles between grim-faced Israeli occupation troops and angry, stone-throwing Palestinians.

The revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in which more than 312 Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops, has dented Israel's image and drawn international attention to the Palestinian aspect of the Arab-Israeli struggle.

"This election is important because it is the first time the question of relations with the Palestinians is a real issue," said a Middle East expert in the U.S. administration.

Many world leaders appear to have an unspoken preference for Peres, the present foreign minister, who has pledged to work for an international conference and territorial compromise in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Officials said they find it harder to see movement towards a settlement emerging from a victory by Shamir, now prime minister, who rejects any land-for-peace deal.

"You can forget about an international conference if Shamir wins," said a Belgian government official.

Moscow has dangled the carrot of resuming full diplomatic ties with Israel if it attends an international conference.

U.S., French and British leaders have received Peres warmly in recent weeks.

Italy's Socialist leader and former prime minister Bettino Craxi last week described as "terroristic" a claim by Shamir that Palestinian independence would lead to world war.

Western and Socialist governments may hope for a Peres success but are careful not to be seen intervening too blatantly in the internal affairs of Israel.

The PLO has shown no such reticence.

In separate appeals to Jewish and Arab voters, the PLO on Monday urged the Israeli electorate to "vote for peace."

"By favouring the forces which represent the real peace choice, Israelis can contribute to the success of this opportunity and to moving the whole Middle East towards new horizons," an unprecedented PLO document told Jewish voters.

The PLO said Israeli voters would decide on "the shape of the future" and called on Israeli Arabs not to abstain.

It did not tell them who to vote for and PLO official Khaled Al Hassan denied the organisation wanted Peres to win.

"The only difference is that the Likud wants you to drink the poison directly, without anything, not even ice, and the Labour, they give you the poison mixed with honey," he said.

But the central aim was clear: To tell Israel, the United States and rest of the world that the Arabs, including the PLO, were ready to talk peace with Israel at an international conference.

"Let him (the Israeli voter) know when he casts his vote that there is an Arab partner ready for negotiations," said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak adviser Osama Al Baz after the Aqaba summit between His Majesty King Hussein, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Mubarak.

Egyptian officials dismissed claims by Shamir's Israeli supporters that the 1978 Camp David accords and the 1979 peace treaty with Cairo showed Egypt could do business with Likud.

"That was (then-prime minister Menachem) Begin. This is

Shamir," one official said. Shamir has denounced what his aides call a foreign plot to prevent a Likud victory.

Hardline Arab states like Syria, and many Palestinians, have scorned the idea that Labour offers an improvement on Likud.

"Unless there is real American pressure on Israel to change its policies and accept the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, no Israeli politician would accept these rights," a senior Syrian official said.

Many Arab states hope that the U.S. and Israeli elections will clear the way for cooperation between Moscow and Washington on the Middle East. Some PLO officials say such an effort by the superpowers could then dovetail with the PLO's new emphasis on a two-state solution, which implies its recognition of Israel.

Shamir has sworn never to negotiate with the PLO, condemning it as a "terrorist" group committed to Israel's destruction.

Peres has not ruled out doing so if the PLO recognises Israel and renounces "terrorism." Diplomats say China and the Soviet Union have urged the PLO to towards recognition of Israel.

"Shamir is more likely to drag his feet on the peace process and press for more (Jewish) settlements in the occupied territories. But if he ultimately went for a serious peace effort, he would have a better chance of succeeding than Peres, because he could bring the right wing with him."

Opinion polls show Peres running neck-and-neck with Shamir in the election race, suggesting neither will win outright.

The U.S. Middle East specialist said that even if Peres gained power he would be hamstringed without Likud support for a major peace initiative.

"Shamir is more likely to drag his feet on the peace process and press for more (Jewish) settlements in the occupied territories," said the expert, who asked not to be named.

"But if he ultimately went for a serious peace effort, he would have a better chance of succeeding than Peres, because he could bring the right wing with him."

The best solution might be another Labour-Likud national unity coalition with a written pact spelling out conditions for a united peace effort, the specialist said.

Shamir blocked a U.S. peace plan this year that called for an international conference leading to direct talks on a partial transfer of power in the occupied territories, to be followed by negotiations on their final status. Peres backed the plan.

In the campaign for the U.S. presidency, neither Republican candidate George Bush nor Democrat Michael Dukakis has spelled out how he would approach Middle East peace-making.

Bush's top foreign policy adviser, Dennis Ross, told Reuters pre-election jockeying by Likud and Labour had held up progress.

He said a new Israeli government of any composition would have more leeway in tackling what he called the reality that the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza could not go on for ever.

Dukakis's main foreign policy aide, Jim Steinberg, doubted that the Israeli election would affect the peace process, which he said depended on direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League protests BTTA conference

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League complained to Britain Thursday about a conference of British travel agencies in occupied Jerusalem later this month and asked London not to send a junior minister to the opening. An Arab League statement said the presence of Tourism Minister John Lee at the conference "would represent a provocation to Arab and Islamic sentiments and could have negative repercussions for Arab-British interests." John Bunney, first secretary in the British embassy in Tunis, was invited to meet Mohammad Farra, one of the league's assistant secretaries, to receive a note on the affair.

Mahfouz won't travel to Stockholm

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Naguib Mahfouz, winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature, said Thursday his health is not good enough for him to travel to Stockholm in December to receive the \$390,000 award. Contacted by telephone, Mahfouz said his doctors advised him not to go. He said it had not been decided whether anyone from his family would attend the ceremony but that Egypt's ambassador to Stockholm would accept the prize in his name on Dec. 10. Mahfouz's 77th birthday was the next day. The Middle East News Agency said Mahfouz is writing the Nobel lecture, traditionally delivered the day after the ceremony, for the ambassador to read.

Qadhafi denies CIA claims

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi says what the CIA claims is a chemical weapons factory is actually a plant to manufacture medicines and it will be opened for international inspection. Libyan media reported Thursday. CIA director William Webster, talking to reporters in Washington Tuesday, said that Libya was building a chemical arms plant which was the largest the CIA had ever detected. He refused to say if the plant was functioning or what kind of gases it could produce.

'Iraq plans new Gulf port'

NEW YORK (R) — Iraq will develop a new Gulf port if Iran rejects proposals for reopening the blocked Strait of Hormuz, Iraq officials say. The New York Times said Iraq was preparing to reopen and expand the small deep-water port at Al Zubair as its main outlet to the Gulf. The idea had already been mentioned in the Iraqi press, the Times said.

Lebanese militias clash in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal militiamen clashed with fighters of the pro-Italian Hizbullah (Party of God) in Beirut's southern suburbs Thursday, police said. They said the two sides exchanged rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire in the Ghobeiri and Msharafiyyeh neighbourhoods in the Lebanese capital.

'Steen letter appears to be fake'

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A letter bearing U.S. hostage Alann Steen's name that was found in a Lebanese woman's luggage appears to be a fake, police said Thursday. The letter and photographs of two U.S. hostages were discovered Oct. 30 in a false bottom of the woman's luggage after she arrived at Milan's Linate airport from Beirut. "We have examined the document (Steen's letter), and for the moment we can only say that it appears evidently false," said Achille Serra, head of the anti-terrorism unit of Milan's police.

Egypt protests to Austria

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — After a protest from Islam's top institute, an Austrian company has removed from the Austrian market female underwear with verses from the Holy Koran written on them and apologized for the incident, the Middle East News Agency reported Thursday. The agency said that the 1,000-year-old Al Azhar mosque, whose rector is considered Islam's top theologian and spiritual arbiter of the world's Muslims, had protested the sale of Austrian-made items of female underwear with verses from the Koran written on them. The agency, quoting an informed source at Al Azhar, said that the institute's protest was relayed by the Egyptian foreign ministry to Austrian authorities.

Iran names Nov. 4 anti-U.S. day

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's parliament Thursday approved Nov. 4, the 9th anniversary of the occupation of the American embassy in Tehran, as a special day marking its campaign against the United States, the official Islamic Republic news agency reported. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Nov. 4 will be called "the national day of the campaign against global arrogance." Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the Iranian government often refer to the United States as "global arrogance."

Al Mahdi believes the 5 not connected to Palestinian organisations

Sudanese court sentences 5 Palestinians to death

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A Sudanese court Thursday sentenced five Palestinians to death for bomb and machinegun attacks on a Khartoum hotel and a club on May 15.

Seven people, including five Britons, died in the attacks on the Acropole Hotel and the Sudan (British) Club in central Khartoum.

Two Sudanese, including an army brigadier, were also killed. The death sentences were passed on Imad Ahmad, Sheriff Ezzat, Hassan Qasbi, Mustapha Aref and Ibrahim Saleh.

All five said they belonged to the "Arab Revolutionary Cells" organisation and confessed in court to carrying out the attacks. Their trial opened on June 19.

They claimed in court that the Acropole Hotel, mostly frequented by foreigners working in Sudan, and the Sudan Club, whose members are almost exclusively British and Commonwealth citizens, were spy nests.

Defence lawyers said they would appeal to death sentences to a higher court. Arab and Western diplomats have said the Arab Revolutionary Cells was an extremist Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal.

The accused denied belonging to any group led by Abu Nidal. The five had Lebanese passports and Sudanese officials said they confessed to being trained in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley for the operation against U.S. and British targets in Sudan.

During the trial, Ahmad confessed to hurling a bomb into the crowded dining room of the Acropole Hotel, bringing down the ceiling and starting a fire, while his accomplices opened fire on the Sudan Club.

Speaking before the verdicts were announced, he said they were not common criminals. "They are Mujahideen whose land has been usurped... They belong to legitimate organisations supported by international law."

All five were acquitted of conspiracy. The court said there was a conspiracy, but because it occurred in Lebanon, Sudanese courts have no jurisdiction.

The sentencing hearing had been postponed four times. After the third postponement on Oct. 17, the United States expressed concern at rumours in Khartoum that Abu Nidal was trying to buy lenient treatment with money to help flood victims.

Khartoum's Communist daily Al Midan reported last week that two members of Abu Nidal's group were in Sudan, meeting high officials and offering money donations. In return, the newspaper said, they sought leniency for the five defendants.

Sudanese security sources said in May that two of the convicted men told investigators they were members of Abu Nidal's group.

They said the attacks were to avenge the assassination of Khalil al Wazir, or Abu Jihad.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi issued a statement saying it was his "unshaken belief" that the five have no connection with Palestinian organisations.

"The Sudanese government is firmly convinced on the ground of objective facts that the elements being currently tried by the Sudanese justice system have no connection with any Palestinian organisation," Al Mahdi's statement said.

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Naguib Mahfouz breaks the 'Iron Curtain'



Naguib Mahfouz

"There has been enough wasting of money on sterile wars"

By Christopher Dickey

CAIRO — Life around Naguib Mahfouz's ground-floor apartment in Cairo was going on more or less as usual. A black cat and a pair of rubber sandals sat outside the apartment door. His building, like his novels, evokes Egypt's decaying grandeur and its haphazard modernisation. The phone rang busy or out of order. "No lights," Mahfouz apologised as he received a handful of visitors. The only thing that made this day quite different from others was that Mahfouz was still recovering from a surprise he got the day before: he won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Mahfouz is the first Arab author to win a Nobel and it caught him off balance. "I hadn't any idea that someone nominated me," he said. Much of the Arab intellectual world expressed less amazement. Mahfouz, 70, is the grand old man of Egyptian letters. If he is little known outside the Middle East, it is because of what the British writer John Fowles once called the "linguistic Iron Curtain" that keeps much Arab writing, and thus much of Arab culture, hidden from the West. In its written form, the Arabic language is formal and does not lend itself well to translation. Poetry is the favoured literary medium; and the novel, as a literary form only dates back a century. But Mahfouz has mastered it to dazzling effect, creating works that the Nobel citation called "rich in nuance... now clear-sightedly realistic, now evocatively ambiguous... an Arabian narrative art that applies to all mankind."

limelight. Frail and self-effacing, the skin over his features drawn tight, his fragile eyes protected behind tinted glasses, he leans toward his interviewer so his hearing aid can pick up the questions. Because of his health — and his dislike of travel — he does not plan to go to Sweden to accept the Nobel Prize. (He has only travelled outside Egypt twice in his life and now finds that even his daily trip to a favourite coffee shop in the crowded centre of Cairo is something of an ordeal.) He expects one of his grown daughters, who still live at home, to take his place at the Nobel award ceremony in Stockholm.

Mahfouz wonders, almost ruefully, if his moderate and humanistic politics played some part in the Nobel Prize committee's decision. He rates his own works as "probably, like the rest of modern Arabic literature, fourth or fifth rate." He says categorically that in the past there have been greater Arabic writers than himself. If they didn't win a Nobel Prize, he says, it was only because when they were nominated "they were up against the

greats of Western literature." What marks his works, in fact, are the realities of life in Egypt. If his later books delved into allegory and the concerns, both political and metaphysical, of Egypt's intellectuals, the foundation of his reputation is based mainly on his accounts of life among the mercantile and lower classes. This was the setting for his massive magnum opus, "The Cairo Trilogy," published in the 1950s. It was a world he knew as the son of a merchant, an environment where very little changed over the centuries, but where each day was filled with gritty human drama. One of Mahfouz's most widely translated works, "Midnight Alley," published in 1947, has among its powerfully drawn characters a whore, a hashish-smoking peddler and a creature called "Zaita, the cripple-maker."

These alleys — and the people who live and loiter in them — are the elements of Naguib Mahfouz's world. He says, "I write what I feel I have to write." What he writes has power — and a Nobel prize — Newsweek.

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Assad, Waldheim address Lebanon, Israel

DAMASCUS (AP) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim called Thursday for separate negotiations to end the violence in both Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied territories.

Turkey wants four Iranian diplomats out

ANKARA (R) — Four Iranian diplomats detained while trying to abduct an opposition activist in Turkey must either leave the country quietly or be expelled, Turkish officials said Thursday.

"They have been released but will either leave the country quietly and quickly or be expelled," said one official, who declined to be identified.

They said investigations were continuing but Turkey was not treating the incident as a crisis in sensitive relations with its neighbour.

Meanwhile, police hunting the killer of Saudi Arabian embassy second secretary Abdul Ghani Beddawi questioned Iranian students in Ankara, security sources said.

The sources said police were taking seriously a claim made in Beirut by the Islamic Jihad-Hijaz (Holy War-Hijaz) group that it killed Beddawi on Tuesday night.

Waldheim, speaking at an official banquet on the first night of a four-day visit, said Austria "explores the escalation of violence and bloodshed in the occupied territories. A just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue is the only way for peace to return to the area."

At least 311 Palestinians have been killed since residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip started their uprising last December against Israel's military rule.

Waldheim also said his government is worried about events in Lebanon, increasingly partitioned after 13 years of civil war, and dialogue and negotiations were needed for national reconciliation there.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who met Waldheim at the airport, said in his banquet toast that violence in the region will continue until Israel accepts an international Middle East peace conference.

He also accused Israel of seeking to partition Lebanon and lashed out at Israel's allies in Lebanon, saying they had brought "a poisonous snake" into the country that would kill them.

Waldheim, accompanied by his wife, is heading a delegation that includes Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Louis Mock as well as economic experts and representatives of major Austrian firms.

Waldheim is scheduled to leave for Kuwait Monday, and is expected to stop in Turkey on his way home.

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Economists differ on dollar's levels

NEW YORK (R) — Economists and currency dealers expect the dollar to slide further, with some arguing it needs to lose around five per cent to the yen and about three per cent to the mark to ensure improvement in the U.S. trade picture.

A lower dollar would make American goods cheaper on world markets and imports more expensive in the United States. Those who believe a weaker dollar is needed say it should drop and remain lower to shrink the U.S. trade deficit over time, a Reuters world survey shows.

"What you need is a lower dollar both to keep U.S. exports going and to slow imports into this country," said Geoffrey Dennis, chief international economist here for British-based James Capel Inc.

The appropriate dollar level according to traders in major financial centres is around 120 yen and 1.70 to 1.75 marks. Estimates ranged as low as 100 yen and 1.54 marks and up to 140 yen and 1.85 marks. Some also said there was no "magic" point.

Most market participants are bearish on the long-term prospect for the dollar, citing the U.S. trade and budget gaps and belief the U.S. economy is slowing as reason for their projection.

Since February 1985 the dollar has tumbled over 50 per cent against the yen and mark. While it has partly rebounded this year, some economists said it remains under its "purchasing power parity" value, the theoretical level where world trade flows balance.

And it is argued that it must remain below this level — which, by one estimate, is 160 yen and 1.90 marks — because of the magnitude of current world imbalances.

"The problem is that the imbalances are so large that we need to overshoot, just as we did on the way up," said Stephen Leach, currency analyst at Chemical Bank in New York.

While several market participants said the dollar needs to weaken further, the Reagan administration has signalled it is content with recent dollar levels. The Treasury last week said it expects more improvement in the trade balance at least through 1989, even without further exchange-rate changes.

It predicted the U.S. merchandise trade deficit, on a balance-of-payments basis, would fall around \$30 billion this year, to about \$130 billion. The current account deficit, a wider measure lumping trade and other financial dealings, is forecast to drop about \$20 billion to \$134 billion.

While several market participants believe a lower dollar is needed, there were exceptions, in part reflecting regional interests. In Australia, economists believe the appropriate value for the dollar is a higher one — at 140 yen and 1.80 marks. They also believe the Australian dollar should fall to 75 cents from its current level of near 83 cents.

Australia needs a decline in its own currency to boost its trade position and cut its current account gap, analysts said.

And in Paris, the business forecasting institute Ipecode said the dollar next year could trade on average at 1.85 marks but fall to 121 yen by the fourth quarter of 1989.

"These rates will be low enough to allow the U.S. trade deficit to continue to improve and also satisfy central banks in the U.S. and Europe," said an Ipecode economist.

But in London economists said an appropriate level to cut the current account gap would be about 120 yen and 1.75 marks.

"On a purchasing power parity basis, the dollar is undervalued," said Ceris Williams, chief international economist at London-based Midland Montagu. "But to generate a much larger improvement in the trade balance and thus the current account, the dollar needs to be below the purchasing power parity levels for some time, perhaps a year to 18 months."

London economists expect the dollar will be firmed by year-end, at 130 yen and 1.82 marks, but they forecast a fall to 120 and 1.70 by mid-1989.

Opinions about the dollar's appropriate level vary in Tokyo,

with one banker arguing there is no such level and another placing it as low as 100 yen and 1.54 marks.

Hirozumi Tanaka, assistant general manager at Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, sees it differently, saying: "In terms of Japanese exporters, around 125-yen levels are favourable. And in terms of the U.S. (trade) deficit, 120-yen levels would be good."

In Frankfurt, Dieter Wermuth, vice president at Manufacturers Hanover GMBH, said: "It is a question of how long the investors are ready to finance the U.S. current account deficit and as long as that is the case, the market value is the appropriate

one." But he added that 1.60 marks was "a nice level for correcting trade imbalances."

James Capel's Dennis in New York said an appropriate level would be 118 yen and 1.68 marks, a level he believes the dollar will trade at in about a year.

"You need to be at least there to get the adjustment process working again and to get the deficit down," he said.

Based on his forecast, Dennis expects the overseas merchandise trade deficit to fall to \$140 billion this year from \$170 billion in 1988.

He expects a further decline next year, to \$125 billion.

Soviet deficit budget shifts emphasis to life necessities

MOSCOW (AP) — In an unprecedented bow to public pressure, Soviet officials Thursday presented a deficit budget for 1989 that shifts spending from steel and unfinished monuments to the necessities of life.

They warned that unprofitable farms and businesses will be shut down and inefficient central planning slashed as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev pushes further his plan to radically reform the economy.

In a burst of honesty unique among the annual two-day budget sessions of the Supreme Soviet legislature, officials painted a gloomy picture of Soviet life.

Where the 1,500 deputies typically listen to hours of dull speeches claiming success for the five-year plan, this time they heard about cramped housing, food rotting en route to stores, jammed trains during holidays, and massive amounts of new equipment lying unused on fac-

tory floors.

Yuri Maslyukov, head of the State Planning Committee, promised dramatic improvements as the government shifts from its traditional emphasis on heavy industry to improving living standards.

The change comes at the cost of a 36-billion-ruble (\$58 billion) deficit on next year's budget of 494 billion rubles (\$802 billion). Finance Minister Boris Gostev described the deficit as "a problem that has not emerged just now, but is a result of the unbalanced economy, of the policy of extensive subsidising and huge losses, of all that was brought about by extensive methods of economic management, parasitic attitudes and a passive financial policy."

Drastic changes are demanded, including something the Soviet Union has never seen: Bankruptcy.

"A number of enterprises are on the brink of being eliminated"

because they cannot operate without massive losses, Gostev said.

Some state-owned businesses may even be turned over to private cooperatives, he continued.

And farms have two years to turn around or also face "elimination."

Maslyukov said central planning will be slashed by restraining ministries' functions. This year the state bought and redistributed 36 per cent of production. It will buy just 25 per cent next year. Everything else must be sold on a new open market according to consumer demand.

In another bow to public pressure, he listed several development plans dropped because of environmental concerns, including two-thirds of 50 planned water projects.

Gostev promised increased pensions and benefits for low-income families.

Big firm to buy new trucks, ship more phosphate to Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (IJLTC) board of directors has endorsed an operational plan for the coming year and passed a number of resolutions to promote the company's activities.

A statement, issued at the end of the final session in Amman Thursday, said that the board has decided to terminate the use of outdated trucks and purchase new ones to help shoulder the

company's growing responsibilities and commitments.

It said that the board decided to assign 100 of the company's 900 trucks to be employed in the process of transporting Jordanian phosphate from the mines in the southern regions of Jordan to Aqaba for export.

In the past months, the company had assigned 40 of its trucks for this task.

According to the statement, the board will carry out a feasibility study to purchase buses which will be put into operation between Aqaba and Baghdad to transport passengers between the two sides. The board endorsed the company's budget and the

annual report on the company's operations.

The company announced earlier that it had collected JD 12 million in revenues in the first eight months of 1988 and had transported 808,000 tonnes of goods from Aqaba to Baghdad in the same period.

At the end of the board meeting, the two sides met with Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan who voiced Jordan's total support for the company's operations.

The company's success, the minister said, reflected the two countries' determination to work in concert and their endeavours to serve Arab interests.

FJCC calls for reasonable profit margin

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) has urged all its members to help fix prices of various commodities and to suffice themselves with a reasonable profit margin.

A federation statement, issued Thursday, said that the federation board discussed the subject of prices and urged the members to take part in the 68th meeting of the Arab Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce to be held in Baghdad in December.

It also decided to take part in an Arab businessmen meeting to be held in Tunis in November.

Zarqa spends JD 41.3 million in 2½ years

ZARQA (Petra) — A total of JD 41.35 million has been spent on development schemes in the Zarqa Governorate in the first half of the 1986-1990 five-year plan, according to Zarqa Governor Eid Al Qataneh.

He said, in a statement, that the funds were spent on social services, education, housing, roads, and urban development projects.

Perhaps the most important of these projects, Qataneh noted, were the sewerage project for Zarqa and Ruseifa and the development of highlands in the Zarqa River basin.

Suez Canal to hike tolls by 8% in '89

CAIRO (R) — The Suez Canal Authority will raise tolls for ships by eight per cent in 1989, Chairman Ezzat Adel said Thursday.

"It has been two years now since the last toll hike went into effect, because of a recession in the shipping market," Adel told a news conference.

The increase, effective from Jan. 1, will be inversely proportional to the size of ships. "The greater the tonnage of a ship, the less the increase will be," Adel said.

He said the increase was largely in line with world inflation rates in general and inflation in the shipping market in particular.

The canal is one of Egypt's main sources of hard currency, earning Cairo \$1.28 billion in the fiscal year 1987-88.

Adel said a 25 per cent surcharge for warships using the waterway would remain in effect.

He said a cut rate offered to long-haul bulk carriers in April 1987 would be retained. This initiative, which reduced transit fees for ships previously using the Cape route by up to 50 per cent, had attracted 578 vessels and earned an extra \$50 million.

Adel expected a surge in traffic following the August ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Adel said the eight per cent rise was expected to bring in about \$90 million.

He said the authority still refused to let nuclear-powered vessels use the canal. But ships carrying radioactive material could sail provided they paid high insurance rates.

Adel said a \$1.5 million feasibility study, financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, had been undertaken into the possibility of widening and deepening the canal to handle ships with a draught of up to 20.4 metres compared with 16 metres at present.

The study was expected to take nine months.

The proposed project, the second phase of a two-stage scheme, would increase the size of ships able to transit the 195-kilometre canal fully laden from 150,000 to 260,000 deadweight tonnes.

Japan, Arab funds and the World Bank provided soft loans for the first stage, which began in 1975 and was completed in 1980 at a cost of \$1.3 billion.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday rates		French franc		72.8	73.2
Central Bank official rates				Buy	Sell
	Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	250.9	252.7
U.S. dollar	442.0	444.0	Dutch guilder	220.4	221.5
Pound Sterling	776.3	780.2	Swedish crown	71.3	71.7
Deutschemark	248.4	249.6	Italian Lira (for 100)	33.4	33.6
Swiss franc	292.9	294.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	118.7	119.3

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Oct. 22-26	Oct. 15-19
Daily average	JD 1,300,507	JD 1,403,862
Total volume	JD 5,202,026	JD 7,019,311
Total shares	3,777,577	5,018,325
No. of contracts	3,355	5,448
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 2,635,853 (50%)	JD 5,249,442 (75%)
Financial	JD 2,252,583 (43.3%)	JD 1,446,153 (20.6%)
Service	(4.5%)	(2.7%)
Insurance	(1.5%)	(1.8%)
Share price index	120.9	120.4
No. of companies	67	63
Price movement (rise)	20	52
(decline)	38	5
(stable)	9	6

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7643/53	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2020/35	Canadian dollar	
	1.7830/40	Deutschemark	
	2.0100/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.5015/25	Swiss francs	
	37.34/37	Belgian francs	
	6.0800/50	French francs	
	1325/1326	Italian lire	
	126.05/15	Japanese yen	
	6.1820/70	Swedish crowns	
	6.6300/50	Norwegian crowns	
	6.8650/8700	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	407.30/407.80	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A lack of direction from overseas markets, rising interest rates and anticipation of a share placement saw the market close easier in heavy options-related trade. The All Ordinaries index ended 1.9 points down at 1,581.8.

TOKYO — Prices closed mixed after a seesaw session with massive volumes traded on the first day of trade for November delivery. The Nikkei index firmed 18.42 to 27,741.34.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed slightly lower with the takeover battle for Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels concluded. The Hang Seng index edged down 2.78 points to 2,614.47.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed slightly lower across the board on continued light profit-taking in lacklustre trading. The Straits Times Industrial index fell 5.09 to 1,035.01.

BOMBAY — Shares dropped for the second day in a row on heavy profit-taking amid continued rumours that corporate results may fall below expectations. Associated Cement, one of the targets of the rumours, fell 9.5 rupees to 277.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mixed in moderate trading as the market consolidated the week's gains and prepared to move higher again next week. The DAX index rose 1.63 to 1,314.98.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly up in moderate trading after a hesitant opening caused by a lower Wall Street. The All Swiss index rose 4.1 points to 940.1.

PARIS — French share prices ended firmly ahead of a long holiday weekend, cheered by Thursday's news of better French trade figures. The 50-share indicator was quoted up 0.79 per cent in the afternoon, after ending Thursday off 0.27 per cent.

LONDON — Equities traded quietly throughout the morning session but old bid rumours kept some leading issues firm on the last day of the two-week account. By midday 262 million shares had traded for a 2.6 point rise in the FTSE 100 share index to 1,854.7.

NEW YORK — U.S. stock prices were firm at midday, helped by strength in the bond market and an initial rise in the dollar. The Dow rose 12 to 2153 as gainers led decliners by two to one. The volume was moderate.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Paris Club reschedules Moroccan debts

PARIS (R) — Morocco has reached agreement with the informal Paris Club of creditor nations to reschedule about \$940 million of its official debt over 10 years, diplomatic sources said Thursday. They said the accord, reached after a scheduled one-day meeting which ended early Thursday morning, covered payments due between July 1 this year and the end of December, 1989. It covered 100 per cent of principal and interest on current maturities and 80 per cent of principal of maturities resulting from Morocco's 1983 debt rescheduling, they said. While the accord did not exactly conform to what Morocco had wanted, it was satisfactory, the sources said. Morocco has total foreign debt of about \$17 billion. The French finance ministry, which acts as spokesman and secretariat for the Paris Club, said in a statement the accord reached with 11 creditor nations was to stretch repayment over a 10-year period, including a five-year grace period.

EC inflation rate rises to 3.8%

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The annual inflation rate in the European Community (EC) increased in September, the consumer price index standing 3.8 per cent higher than in September last year, the EC's statistical agency Eurostat reported Thursday. The inflation rate compares with a year-to-year rate of 3.6 per cent in August and an average rate of 3.2 per cent for the first nine months of 1988. The September rate compares with an annual inflation rate of 4.2 per cent in the United States and 0.7 per cent in Japan, Eurostat said. Among the EC's 12 member states, the inflation rate was the highest in Greece where prices rose 14.8 per cent in September from the year-earlier month, and lowest in the Netherlands where prices rose by only 1.1 per cent.

General Motors posts record profits

DETROIT (R) — General Motors (G.M.) Corp. Thursday took back its crown as the nation's most profitable car maker, announcing its third-quarter profits soared 106 per cent to \$859.2 million, an industry record for the period. The higher profit, equal to \$2.46 a share, was up from \$417.9 million, or \$1.05 a share, in the same period last year. The third quarter is typically the least profitable period for the industry. The higher earnings helped G.M. regain some of the lustre on its tarnished image. While it has long been the world's biggest car maker, it has recently posted poor

profit figures, giving Ford Motor Company the distinction of being the nation's most profitable car producer. Ford said Wednesday it earned \$856 million in the third quarter.

Sudan to introduce more reforms

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said Thursday a new two-tier foreign exchange rate would probably lead to price rises and would be followed by other reforms to its economy. "This is the beginning of a series of corrective policies. It will be followed by new economic and fiscal policies," Minister of State for Finance Al Tigani Al Tayeb said without giving details. He told a news conference prices were likely to rise at least temporarily following the new currency system introduced Wednesday, under which the official rate of 4.5 pounds to the dollar was devalued to about 11.45 pounds for some transactions. No further devaluation would follow, Tayeb said. Sudan has been unable to fully service foreign debts of \$12 billion and Tayeb said inflation was running at an annual rate of between 40 and 50 per cent. The new exchange rate applies to 30 per cent of export earnings and some imports and to remittances from a million Sudanese expatriates and earnings of first-class hotels.

British deficit narrows sharply

LONDON (AP) — Britain's merchandise trade deficit narrowed sharply and unexpectedly in September, partly helped by erratic items such as exports of aircraft repairs and precious stones, the government said Thursday. The trade deficit narrowed to £1.06 billion (\$1.87 billion) in September from £1.81 billion (\$3.19 billion) in August, the Department of Trade and Industry said. The current account deficit narrowed to £560 million (\$986 million) from £1.31 billion (\$2.31 billion), the department said. The current account includes "invisible" trade such as services, overseas investment earnings and official transfer payments, which the government estimated to be in surplus of £500 million (\$880 million) in the most recent month. Explaining the erratic items, the department said planes brought here for repair counted as imports in August and became exports last month when the work was done. Excluding these items, the merchandise trade deficit was £1.49 billion (\$2.6 billion) in September, compared with £1.66 billion (\$2.9 billion) in August.

Indonesia reforms banking system

JAKARTA (AP) — The Indonesian government Thursday introduced far-reaching banking reforms. The measures guarantee complete convertibility of the national currency, the rupiah, and the right to move currency freely in and out of the country, Finance Minister J.B. Sumarlin said. Under the new measures, effective immediately, foreign banks may establish joint-venture banking operations with Indonesian partners in Jakarta and six other key market areas in the country, Sumarlin said. The reforms paved the way for the creation of new private domestic banks, provide for a vastly expanded banking network throughout the country, and increase funds available for bank lending from 85 to 98 per cent of bank reserves. They also bolster safeguards by raising minimum levels of paid-up capital for private banks, provide a major incentive to overseas capital investors by extending central bank guarantees on currency swaps, and free up state-owned enterprises to shift up to 50 per cent of their deposits from state-owned to private banks.

S. Korea revises GNP figure to 11%

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's gross national product (GNP) is expected to grow by 11 per cent in 1988, up from the initial projections of 10 per cent, the Bank of Korea said Friday. Kim Kon, governor of the central bank, said the projection was revised upward after third-quarter indicators showed that exports and domestic demand were strong and capital investment was expanding. It would be the third consecutive year for the nation's GNP to register a double-digit growth rate. The rate was 12.3 per cent in 1986 and 12.0 per cent in 1987. Kim said central bank forecasts placed GNP growth at 13 per cent in the third quarter, or July-September 1988, up from 10.3 per cent in the same period last year.

Spain welcomes Kuwaiti investment

KUWAIT (R) — Spain said Thursday it welcomed Kuwaiti investment as Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez met ministers for talks.

"Kuwaiti investments are welcome. We are grateful for the confidence Kuwaitis have expressed in the Spanish political and economic system," Spanish ambassador to Kuwait Juan Jose Arbolí told Reuters.

Ordóñez met Finance Minister Jassim Mohammad Al Khorafi and Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), quoting oil officials, said Ordóñez and Sheikh Ali had discussed "the possibility of expanding oil investment cooperation between the two countries." It did not elaborate.

The Kuwait Investment Office, Kuwait's London-based investment arm, has bought stakes in Spanish firms worth some \$1 billion since 1984.

Some of the shares, including an indirect controlling interest in the strategic chemicals conglomerate Explosivos Rio Tinto, have stirred controversy within Spanish industry.

"As far as the government is concerned there are no problems or conflicts. Kuwait is taking into consideration the position of the Spanish government to avoid conflict," Arbolí said.

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of Mr. Lamberto Villanueva passport No. AO 423135

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G.E. HEAVY DUTY CLOTHING



Her Majesty Queen Noor presenting a medal to one of the participants in Thursday's diving competition in Aqaba.

99 children take part in diving competition

AOABA (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Thursday attended a children's diving competition organised by the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with the Aquamanna Hotel in the city.

A total of 61 French and 38 Jordanian children between six and 18 years of age took part in the competition including Prince Hashem and Prince Hamzah. The Queen distributed awards and trophies to all the competitors in the presence of Aqaba District Governor and Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat.

Nacional win S. American title

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Nacional of Uruguay won their third South American club soccer title when they beat Newell's Old Boys of Argentina 3-0 in the second match of the Libertadores Cup final Wednesday night.

The Argentine side had won the first match in Rosario 1-0, so after 90 minutes of the second match they were all-square with one win apiece.

In extra time, Newell's failed to score the two goals that would have taken the teams into a penalty shoot-out and the aggregate score decided in the Uruguayans' favor.

The Uruguayans, Libertadores Cup winners in 1973 and 1980, will meet European champions PSV Eindhoven of The Netherlands for the World Cup trophy in Tokyo December 11.

McEnroe marches on, Mecir slips

PARIS (R) — John McEnroe and Miloslav Mecir both experienced problems with the raucous French crowd at the \$1.1-million Paris Open men's tennis Grand Prix Thursday — but with different results.

Serving sublimely, McEnroe advanced into the quarter-finals with barely a hint of difficulty as he beat fellow-American Paul Annacone 6-3, 6-2.

But fourth seed Mecir slumped to a 6-3, 6-4 defeat to Brad Gilbert of the United States in the first professional match between two Olympic medalists.

The Czechoslovak became the sixth seed to fail to reach the last eight.

McEnroe's serving power was at its remarkable best. He dropped just six points in nine service games and none at all during the second set.

McEnroe's ability to concentrate on his own service was extraordinary because he constantly stopped during his wind up to complain about whistles, coughs and flash photos from the boisterous crowd.

In an outburst which risked alienating a crowd that had been solidly behind him, he called one persistent whistler "stupid and

obnoxious."

"People just don't understand, I guess," he said. "It's more exciting for the sport if it's quiet. The eruption at the end of the point is different to other sports and that should be respected."

"It's important also to hear the ball because of the spin and to judge how fast it's coming at you."

Mecir was clearly upset by the behaviour of the fans. Afterwards he complained: "I felt the crowd was not really a tennis crowd."

"They were throwing paper on the court, whistling after first serves, and after missed easy shots."

The Olympic champion had more than his fair share of bad luck against the bronze medalist too.

Gilbert, serving at 4-2 and 30-30 in the second set, hit two successive shots out but neither was called, leaving Mecir to howl in anguish.

He stood at the side of the court for some time, shaking his head in disbelief, before deciding to continue.

McEnroe meets Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland in the next round while Gilbert will play Guy Forget of France.

Tyson-King courtship moves forward

LAS VEGAS (R) — Don King appears to be making progress in wooing Mike Tyson with the heavyweight champion saying Thursday that he and the garrulous promoter are partners in staging the Chavez-Ramirez title fight here this weekend.

King, who has been trying to wrest control of Tyson from his manager, Bill Cayton, arrived with Tyson and hovered over the champion for most of the news conference promoting the Julio Cesar Chavez-Jose Luis Ramirez lightweight title fight.

"Me and Don King have made a deal and we're partners in promotion and this is my first promotion," said Tyson, who seemed to enjoy helping publicize a fight other than his own.

At one point the champion scooped up the beautiful, scantily-clad young sister of Chavez for a publicity shot and readily gave in to calls for him to kiss her.

The champion, scheduled to fight Briton Frank Bruno in January, refused to discuss his partnership with King, whom Tyson said just a few months ago he did not trust.

But Tyson recently stayed with King at his training camp in Ohio and has made several public appearances with the promoter as the champion's relationship with Cayton appeared to be deteriorating once again.

King is still the only promoter of record for the Chavez-Ramirez fight, but calling Tyson a co-promoter may be a shrewd move in his pursuit of the Tyson money machine.

Finn, Belgian win Pyramid rally

GIZA (R) — Finland's Ari Vatanen led Peugeot Talbot sport's team to victory Thursday in the car event of the Pharaohs' rally for the second consecutive year.

Belgian Gaston Rahier, three-time world champion, dashed over the line on his Suzuki DRZ 750 to win the motorcycle event in the 5,500-kilometre rally for the third time.

Having finished the 400-kilometre final stage first in a Peugeot 405 T16, Vatanen celebrated with a drink of milk as he waved to hundreds of spectators at the Giza Pyramids where the rally began October 16.

"I've done it twice now," the Finn said. "This rally has over the last two or three years got more publicity and in the ranking list I would say it comes right after Paris-Dakar."

But Vatanen, who won the Pharaohs' last year in a Peugeot 305 T16, could not say if his team would take part next year.

"It is the team who decides... but if it depends on me, I will come of course," he said.

Rahier, who failed to complete the rally last year, said he faced a problem 100 kilometres from the finish when his front tank ran out of petrol.

"I didn't panic," he said.

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Real, PSV grab wins

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid and PSV Eindhoven — past and present masters of Europe — eased within sight of the European Cup quarter-finals in confident but contrasting styles Wednesday.

in reigning champions PSV's display as they opened their defence of the coveted trophy with a 3-0 demolition of Porto, the Portuguese side who preceded them as holders.

Fielding nine of the side who beat Benfica on penalties to lift the cup six months ago in Stuttgart, PSV underlined their claim to be Europe's outstanding club side on a night of few early surprises around Europe.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

PSV defeat Porto

The Dutch league leaders, thought to be under threat after a series of mediocre domestic displays, swept into a match-winning 3-0 halftime lead and added two more goals in the second period despite easing off.

Two goals from Libero Ronald Koeman, and others from Wim Kieft, Juul Ellerman and Anton Janssen left world club champions Porto humiliated, humbled and all but out of the competition.

Mexican international Hugo Sanchez converted a second-half penalty after his Spanish striking partner Emilio Butragueno was flattened in the area to secure Real's vital slender advantage.

Capable Real easily dealt with the Poles' few attacks before Sanchez's 65th minute spot kick. Gornik's one Real goal chance came in the 19th minute when Krzysztof Baran dribbled past goalkeeper Francisco Buayo only to see full-back Julio Lorente scamper back and clear the ball of the goal-line.

Bucharest defeat Spartak

Former champions Steaua Bucharest kept alive their hopes of recapturing the prized silverware with an impressive display of their own.

The Romanians, who lifted the trophy in 1986, romped to a 3-0 home win over Spartak Moscow in their first leg clash.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A K J 9 5 ♡ A J 8 7 ♢ K 9
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade.

What do you bid now?
A.—With all prime cards, a ruffing value, four cards in the other major and only one stopper in the opposing suit, we prefer a takeout double to an overall of one no trump. If there is game in the hand, it's more likely in hearts than no trump.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A J 5 ♡ Q 9 5 ♢ K J 4 ♣ A Q
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade.

What do you bid now?
A.—This time you have a double stopper in the enemy suit, tenace positions, a weak four-card major and softer values. One no trump looks more promising on this hand.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A J 6 3 ♡ K 9 8 7 ♢ Q 10 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
2 ♠ ?

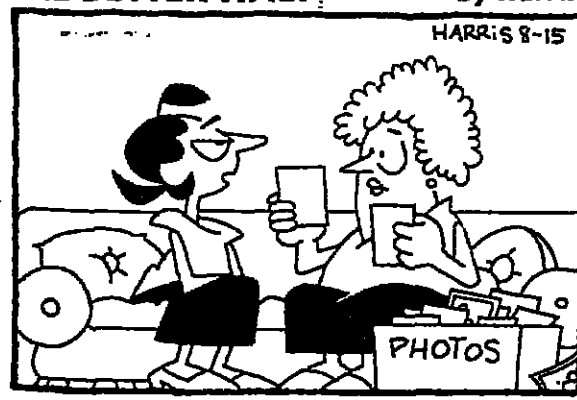
What action do you take?
A.—You have the perfect distribution for a takeout double, but you are not strong enough to act at the two-level—especially at this vulnerability. Pass to see how the auction develops. Remember, partner is still free to act.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A J 6 3 ♡ K 9 8 7 ♢ Q 10 3 2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
2 ♠ ?

What action do you take?
A.—You have the perfect distribution for a takeout double, but you are not strong enough to act at the two-level—especially at this vulnerability. Pass to see how the auction develops. Remember, partner is still free to act.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"He was pretty cheap with my engagement ring. My bathtub ring has more sparkle!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

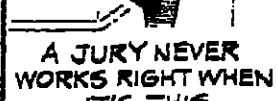
Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELVOH

MOIFT

DANAGE

RILIXE



A JURY NEVER WORKS RIGHT WHEN IT'S THIS.

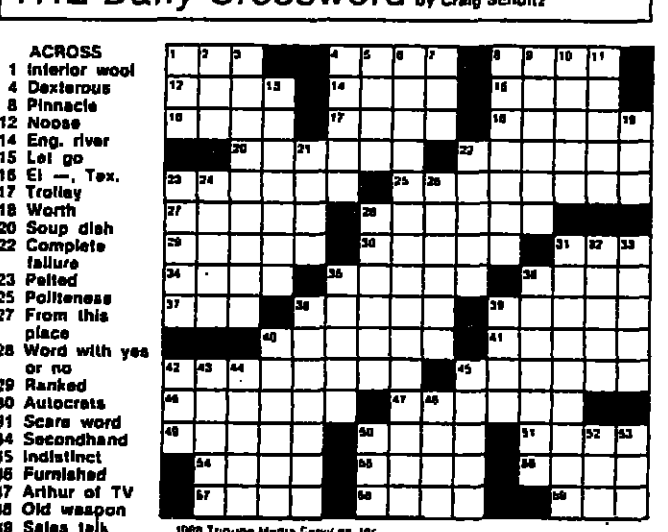
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Saturday's Jumbles: YODEL PORGY UNLIKE OBJECT

Answer: Could be a skeptic's outlook—A "DOUBT LOOK"

THE Daily Crossword by Craig Schultz



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Interior wood
2. Dexterior
3. Pinnacle
4. Moose
5. Eng. river
6. Lei go
7. El - Tex.
8. Trolley
9. Worth
10. Soup dish
11. Complete failure
12. Pellet
13. Politeness
14. From this place
15. Word with yes or no
16. Ranked
17. Autocrats
18. Scare word
19. Secondhand
20. Indistinct
21. Furnished
22. Arthur of TV
23. Old weapon
24. Sales talk
25. Poem
26. Divisions
27. Come after
28. Pioneer
29. More bleak
30. Schedule
31. Sauce
32. Nuts
33. Smooth
34. Pod plant
35. Prod.
36. At all times
37. Soaks flax
38. Recognize at a distance
39. Baseball team
40. Advances of a kind in sports

DOWN
1. European mountain
2. Constrictor
3. - Party
4. Old-fashioned
5. Island
6. US author
7. Pro -

8. Regards with esteem
9. Make out of nothing
10. Code
11. Great stories
12. Sweoped down suddenly
13. Trifle
14. Hollow stem
15. Like many animals
16. Bush
17. Tantalize
18. Speaks eloquently
19. Periods of work
20. Flag maker
21. At the signal
22. Additional
23. Craze
24. Family tree

38. Quarry workers
39. Forward
40. Tricked
41. Limit
42. Flirtatious one
43. Depart
44. Lawn cover
45. Comedian
46. Johnson
47. Spherical body
48. O'Neill's "The Hairy -"
49. Color

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Kremlin: No Baltic independence

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Soviet leaders will not allow the nation's troubled Baltic republics to take major steps towards independence, such as printing their own currency or conducting diplomacy, a key aide to Soviet chief Mikhail Gorbachev told the New York Times.

Aleksander N. Yakovlev, a member of the politburo and architect of many of Gorbachev's major foreign and domestic policies, said the grass-roots political movements in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania had voiced some legitimate grievances.

"We believe a new status should be elaborated for the constituent republics, and we're working on this," he said during a two-and-a-half hour interview with the U.S. newspaper in his Moscow office. The article appeared in Friday's editions.

But Yakovlev said Soviet leaders wouldn't heed demands for independence from the three Bal-

tic republics. Last weekend, the founding congress of the Lithuanian political movement called for the right to print a separate Lithuanian currency, open diplomatic missions abroad and restrict emigration to the republic by other Soviet citizens.

He said it was "simply unrealistic" for citizens in the Baltic republics to expect to regain the independence they had before the Soviet Union annexed the territory in 1940.

Yakovlev, named last month in a leadership shakeup to head a new Communist Party Central Committee commission on international relations, also discussed the upcoming U.S. presidential

election and turmoil in parts of Eastern Europe.

From the Soviets' perspective, relations with the United States would not be changed by the election of Republican George Bush or Democrat Michael Dukakis, the two candidates competing for the presidency in the Nov. 8 election.

He also said that Soviet security is threatened by political changes in Eastern Europe that are encouraged and directly supported by the United States and other Western nations.

Dobrynin, named adviser

In another development, Anatoly Dobrynin, former Soviet ambassador to Washington who lost a senior Kremlin post last month, has been appointed an adviser to Gorbachev, an official spokesman said Friday.

Gennady Gerasimov of the Foreign Ministry's information directorate said Dobrynin and

Vadim Zagladin, his former first deputy as head of the Communist Party's International Department, were now policy aides to the Kremlin leader.

In a surprise move Sept. 30, 68-year-old Dobrynin was removed as a secretary of the party's central committee in a top-level reshuffle and an official announcement said he was retiring on pension.

But he resurfaced among Soviet officials during this week's visit to Moscow by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, sparking speculation that the Soviet leader had decided his foreign policy experience was too valuable to waste.

Zagladin, a specialist in ideology and political theory, has long served as a travelling spokesman for the Kremlin and built up a reputation as a relative liberal on relations with the West before Gorbachev came to power in 1985.

Philippine company faces 4 probes into ferry disaster

MANILA (R) — The senate Friday launched a probe into the cause of a Philippine ferry disaster in which 280 are still missing.

Rescue ships and helicopters hunted Friday for more survivors on a string of tiny tropical islands as ferry operators Sulpicio Lines denied allegations from some of the 205 victims found alive that the ship was overloaded.

The Philippine Senate public service committee opened hearings Friday morning into the causes of the disaster and why the 2,855-ton Dona Marilyn was allowed to leave Manila Harbour with a typhoon approaching.

Committee Chairman John Osmena said available weather

data had been interpreted badly.

Some senators called for the operating licence of Sulpicio to be suspended and the shipping company faced up to four separate investigations into the disaster.

President Corason Aquino ordered the transport ministry to probe the causes of the tragedy shortly after the 22-year-old ship carrying around 500 passengers and crew went down during a typhoon. The Philippine Coast Guard is launching its own inquiry, along with both houses of congress after the second major shipping disaster in the Philippines in 10 months.

Sulpicio also owned the Dona Paz, which sank with the loss of

more than 3,000 lives following a collision with a small oil tanker last December.

The government has ordered Sulpicio to explain why the ferry left Manila despite typhoon alerts and President Aquino said Thursday she would suspend the company's operating licence if investigation showed the boat was at fault.

But shipping sources said it might be difficult for the government to order a suspension because Sulpicio owned almost a quarter of the Philippine commercial fleet and such a suspension could disrupt transport of goods around the archipelago of 7,000 islands.

Rust wants to visit Moscow legally

FRANKFURT (AP) — Mathias Rust, the West German pilot who landed in Moscow's Red Square last year and spent 14 months in prison for violating Soviet airspace, wants to return to visit Moscow legally, a magazine reported. The weekly Goldenes Blatt said that Rust, 20, had been denied a visa by the Soviet embassy in Bonn and now plans to write directly to Mikhail Gorbachev. "I wanted to visit Red Square and see the city's sights with my mother. Other than the court and the cell, I saw little of Moscow," Rust said. Rust caused a major shakeup after he flew his single-engine Cessna to the Kremlin unhindered May 28, 1988. Rust was convicted of illegally entering the Soviet Union, violating international flight rules and malicious hooliganism, and sentenced to four years. He was released Aug. 4.

'Flight of a lifetime' LONDON (AP) — A young Japanese woman had the trip of a lifetime on a flight from Tokyo to London — a choice of 353 seats, six movies, a gourmet menu and the exclusive attention of 15 cabin attendants. British Airways said Thursday that the woman, identified only as Mrs. Yamamoto, was the lone passenger on the 12,800-kilometre flight 008, which arrived at Heathrow airport Tuesday afternoon. "The Jumbo was delayed going into Tokyo and by the time it set off for London, all the other passengers had been re-booked on to other flights," said a British Airways spokesman. "Mrs. Yamamoto had actually arrived early at the airport for another British Airways flight which was leaving later. But since she was there, she was offered the opportunity for the flight of a lifetime," the spokesman said. "We had to come back empty because the Jumbo was due back in Britain to get back into its schedule."

'E.T.' may be first billion-dollar film

NEW YORK (R) — "E.T. — The Extraterrestrial," the biggest money-spinner in film history, could become the first movie to earn \$1 billion, its distributors said Thursday as the video-cassette went on sale around the world. "E.T." has already grossed \$700 million, said Jane Ayer, an executive of MCA-Universal, the film's U.S. distributor. "It could be the first billion-dollar film." The billion-dollar mark could conceivably be reached by the end of December, which includes the Christmas period, said Marvin Levy, a marketing analyst at director Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. "If we sold 10 million copies at retail, that's another 240 to add to the 700 million box-office, so it's in the ballpark," Levy told Reuters.

'Fergie' tight-lipped on sister's troubles

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Sarah, the duchess of York, was tight-lipped Thursday about a London newspaper report that her sister Jane had separated from her husband, Fergie, as the duchess is known, had flown to Perth clutching a stuffed koala to rendezvous with her husband Prince Andrew, who arrives Friday aboard HMS Edinburgh. Intense media interest in the duchess revived Thursday after the Sun newspaper in London reported the duchess' elder sister was parting from her Australian husband, Alex Makin. The couple live in Queensland. Mrs. Makin was at Adelaide airport when the duchess departed for western Australia. Australian Associated Press said she appeared annoyed at being asked about her visit and her sister's well-being. Mrs. Makin stayed behind in Adelaide. Neither spoke to reporters.

Bears stalk Japanese town

TOKYO (AP) — Bears have invaded towns in western Japan to search for food, and residents have been told to carry whistles and bells and play radios to frighten them away. Residents of Toyama, a state about 260 kilometres west of Tokyo, have seen more than 30 bears foraging through towns, said Minoru Arakawa, a spokesman for the state. Nine of the animals were killed or captured this month. Officials said this year's sparse crop of the wild fruit the bears eat in their mountain habitat drove the animals towards residential areas. Authorities have told people to throw hats or other clothes on the ground to divert the attention of bears they may encounter.

Irish 'plotters' sentenced

LONDON (R) — Three young Irish citizens convicted of conspiracy to kill Northern Ireland Minister Tom King and other British politicians, soldiers and judges were jailed for 25 years each Friday.

Finbarr Cullen, 27, John McCann, 24, and Martina Shanahan, 22, were found guilty by a majority 10-2 jury verdict Thursday at Winchester court.

Judge Swinton Thomas told them as he passed sentence: "The persons concerned in your conspiracy were innocent people who were carrying out their public duties."

The convictions of the three on circumstantial evidence after the divided jury took 15 hours to reach a verdict angered members of their families who watched the trial.

Although there was no immediate reaction from the Irish government, the verdicts were denounced by Irish churchmen who demanded a review of extradition agreements between the Republic of Ireland and Britain.

Cullen, McCann and Shanahan showed no emotion when the judge said the severity of the sentences was to mark the "horror" of what he called terrorist crimes. All three had faced possible life imprisonment.

They were arrested in August last year. Cullen and Shanahan were seized by members of King's bodyguard who found them in woods near his home in Wiltshire in southern England. McCann was arrested late the same day at a campsite in Somerset where all three had been staying.

They gave false names and produced false documents and a notebook found in their tent contained the names and personal details of King and other well-known Britons who had connections with Northern Ireland.

The names of King, former junior Northern Ireland Minister Rhodes Boyson and Nicholas Scott and army terrorist expert Major General Richard Clutterbuck had crosses against them.

They denied the charges and refused to answer questions or to give evidence.

Pretoria to seek to cajole blacks despite poll rejection

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government has pledged to negotiate with blacks about representation in the central government despite a turnout of less than a quarter of voters from the black majority in local elections this week.

Con Botha, a spokesman for the ruling White National Party, said Thursday the results of Wednesday's vote for segregated black, white, Indian and coloured (mixed-race) local authorities were a clear mandate for continued reform.

He said the government would continue experiments with multi-racial provincial government.

In addition, Pretoria would set up a national council in the near future in which blacks and whites

could negotiate to give blacks a voice, although not full voting rights, at central government level.

"We must move fast to utilise the large number of public representatives and get this negotiating forum going, to get talking about high level political representation for blacks," he said.

Black opposition leaders including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Reverend Frank Chikane, however, dismissed the poll — the first simultaneous election of some 1,200 segregated local councils — as a flop.

"The crisis of legitimacy of the so-called black local authorities remains unresolved," said Chikane, president of the South African Council of Churches.

He said the 24.6 per cent turnout among registered black voters — a total of about 350,000 votes cast — amounted to a massive rejection of Pretoria's apartheid race policies.

The voters represented about 1.4 per cent of South Africa's total black population of all ages of 26 million.

"It is time for the government to duplicate what it has been doing elsewhere in Africa, talking and negotiating," Chikane said.

Tutu said numbers could be manipulated, but "the reality remains that black South Africans reject apartheid and government attempts to give it a coat of new paint."

Grosz to give up premiership

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarian Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz said in an interview published Friday he would resign as prime minister next month.

Grosz, who will keep the more important party post, told the government daily Magyar Hirlap that one of five candidates would be proposed to a parliamentary session due Nov. 24.

He gave no names, but party sources and senior Western diplomats tipped Politburo economist Miklos Nemeth, 40, to succeed him. Liberal Minister of State Imre Pozsgay, mentioned by Grosz as a possible premier, is said to have ruled himself out on

the terms offered.

A former lecturer who backs more private enterprise, Nemeth has had a meteoric career.

In June 1987 he entered the party's central committee and became secretary in charge of economic policy in one leap. He became a member of the ruling Politburo in May.

Nemeth has spent time in the United States and is regarded by Western diplomats as a reformer of great ability.

Other possible contenders for the premiership include Politburo members Iona Tatai, head of the Taurus Rubber Company, and Rezso Nyers, 65, the father of

Hungary's 1968 economic reforms. Nyers was ousted from the Politburo in 1975 and returned only this May.

Grosz, 58, has led both party and government since May 23, when a special party congress swept out the old guard led by veteran General Secretary Janos Kadar.

He has indicated several times that he wanted to give up the premiership, but some observers had thought he might fill both jobs for 18 months or even until 1990, when parliamentary elections and a party congress fall due.

Latin leaders call for U.S. talks

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay (AP) — For seven Latin American presidents, their powerful neighbour to the north, the United States, has taken centre-stage at their gathering to discuss regional problems.

In opening speeches Thursday, several presidents said the 2-year-old group of eight should open "a new dialogue" with the United States on topics such as Latin America's staggering \$420-billion foreign debt, drug trafficking, trade imbalances and technology transfers.

The group proposes to the United States "a dialogue based on equality and dignity, a rational

dialogue about the problems of our hemisphere," President Alan Garcia of Peru told about 500 diplomats and invited guests.

Two three-hour private meetings at this posh Atlantic Ocean resort were set for Friday. The summit is to end Saturday.

Previous bilateral talks involving the United States and the individual Latin American countries — Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay — have been one-sided and inconclusive, the Latin American leaders said.

The eighth member of the group, Panama, was suspended following the February ouster of

President Eric Delvalle.

For example, negotiations on foreign debt focused on interest rates and austerity programmes. The Latin American presidents said the focus should have been the promotion of economic growth and the reduction of massive capital outflows to allow the borrowing nations funds for investment.

Drug trafficking programmes have stressed curtailment of production rather than efforts to stem consumption.

President Virgilio Barco of Colombia said Colombian soldiers have seized hundreds of boats and planes.

NATO averts policy crisis

SCHEVENINGEN, Netherlands (R) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence ministers ended a two-day meeting Friday by unanimously endorsing a report setting out the need for short-range nuclear arms after Belgium softened earlier objections.

The ministers have been assessing ways of reshuffling the alliance's nuclear arsenal following the U.S.-Soviet treaty scrapping medium-range missiles.

British and U.S. officials said the meeting headed off a crisis when the Allies persuaded Belgium not to add a dissenting footnote to a final communiqué endorsing the need to keep nuclear forces in Europe up to date.

"Basically we are all happy... Belgium agrees to the communiqué," one official said.

The communiqué released at the end of the meeting said NATO's security policy relied on "a credible mix of conventional and nuclear forces."

"We are determined to continue to take those actions required to preserve NATO's security interests and to maintain the credibility of our deterrent forces, conventional and nuclear, which will be kept up-to-date where necessary," it said.

The meeting, a regular session of the Nuclear Planning Group, considered ways of modernising NATO's short-range weapons, which have a range of up to 500 kilometres, without committing the alliance to a clear course of action.

Belgium initially balked at endorsing a NATO report outlining a deterrent role for short-range nuclear weapons.

Ministers from other NATO countries said domestic squabbling in Belgium's centre-left coalition government rather than genuine differences with other Allies had caused the problem.

Paris tells company to distribute abortion pill

PARIS (R) — France ordered a drug company Friday to distribute a controversial abortion pill withdrawn in the face of strong protests from religious groups in Europe and the United States.

"In the interest of public health, Mr. Claude Evvin (Health Minister) has ordered Roussel Uclaf to restart the production of RU 486. The (Roussel Uclaf) laboratory has agreed to do so," the Health Ministry said in a communiqué.

The company says the drug, marketed in France under the name Mifepistone and for use early in pregnancy, removes the need for surgical abortions.

The pill, blocks the action of progesterone, a hormone essential in all phases of pregnancy. Researchers say it is effective in the first seven weeks of pregnancy, particularly when used in conjunction with a second product called Suliprotone, or Prostaglandine E.

The new drug was not a do-it-yourself morning-after pill that could be purchased at the supermarket and taken at home, it required medical supervision, a company official said.

Evvin said the company's top executives and their families had been subjected to "scandalous pressures."

"Their children and their wives were threatened through anonymous letters. This is totally inadmissible and utterly cowardly," Evvin said on French television.

"It is difficult to tell who these people are since they are acting anonymously but they are basically those same religious fundamentalists who in the early 1970s campaigned against the abortion law," he added.

Evvin said he had taken all precautions to ensure there would be no abuse of the drug and its distribution would not create a black market in abortion pills.

"These pills will only be administered in the presence of a doctor and sales will be subjected to the same rigorous restriction as those which apply to hard drugs," he said.

The drug's withdrawal Wednesday provoked the anger of its producers, which said it was a sign of rising religious intolerance in this predominantly Catholic country.

Roussel Uclaf has made no formal announcement so far. A company spokesman said the management was meeting to make a decision and was likely to issue a statement later. The health minister and the firm's Deputy-Chairman Pierre Joly met early Friday.

Roussel Uclaf said Wednesday it was withdrawing the drug, which received government approval two months ago, because of an "emotional response from parts of French and foreign public opinion."

Joly said in an interview on French radio Thursday that U.S. West German and French anti-abortion groups had led the campaign against the pill. He said he himself had received threats.



Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos at their home in Hawaii awaiting trial

Marcos' arraignment delayed, not Imelda's

NEW YORK (AP) — A U.S. judge has indefinitely delayed the arraignment of deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos on racketeering charges, but ordered Marcos's wife to appear in a New York court Monday.

"I am adjourning sine die (without date) the arraignment of President Marcos," U.S. District Judge John Keenan said Thursday after defence lawyers presented doctors' letters saying Marcos was too ill to travel from Hawaii.

The trip is approximately 8,000 kilometres.

Prosecutors opposed the move, saying the letters were too vague and that bail was needed to guarantee the Marcoses would not flee the country even if the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) ends its round-the-clock surveillance of their home.

The letters did not indicate an "inability to fly from Hawaii to New York," assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Labella said.

Keenan refused to delay the arraignment of Mrs. Marcos, who was indicted with her husband and eight others last week for an alleged scheme that looted their

homeland of more than \$100 million and concealed it in commercial real estate deals.

Keenan said he would delay Marcos' arraignment until a government physician could examine Marcos in person or review his medical records.

The defence sought to have both Marcos, 71, and his 59-year-old wife, Imelda, arraigned at a U.S. court in Honolulu, where they have lived since fleeing their country in February 1986.

They presented letters from two Honolulu doctors and Marcos' personal physician, Juanita Zagala, saying he suffered from an enlarged heart and cardiomyopathy.

Marcos' attorney Richard Hibel also charged there may be a possible "circus atmosphere" at arraignment.

Keenan responded that there would be as much media attention in Honolulu as in New York and "There won't be any circus atmosphere in my courtroom, not while I'm presiding."

The judge said he had no intention of holding Mrs. Marcos and would allow her to return to Hawaii after setting bail.

U.S. to mark country's 1938 nervous breakdown

NEW YORK (R) — Americans are getting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the night the country suffered a national nervous breakdown over fears that Martians with death rays were invading Manhattan.

Oct. 30, 1938, is a Halloween eve that lives in infamy for people who believe what they hear — the day a clever radio drama panicked an estimated one million Americans who jammed phone lines with frantic calls, crowded into church basements for safety and roamed the highways with guns.

It all started at 8 p.m. when millions of Americans switched their radio sets to CBS to hear Ramon Raquello and his Society Orchestra and instead unwittingly listened to Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre of the Air doing a 46-page adaptation of H.G. Wells, "War of the Worlds."

Many listeners had missed the CBS disclaimers at the start of the show because they were tuned to another station where ventriloquist Edgar Bergen was trading jokes with dummy Charlie

McCarthy. Bergen then made the mistake of letting a high-brow pianist play a few tunes and a bored audience switched stations. What followed was a national panic that has been written up in psychology textbooks.

An estimated 12 million people listened to the programme and about one million were said by experts to have believed what they heard.

Welles and his company began their programme with realistic news bulletins that many people mistook for the gospel truth.

A yellow and white Martian space ship had landed in the tiny town of Grover's Mill, New Jersey, the news bulletins said. Creatures with tentacles were getting out, the news bulletins continued.

"They have death ray guns," they said.

The people of Grover's Mill recall 50 years later that they themselves did not panic because they looked around town and did not find anything unusual going on.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. rejects Soviet radar plan

SPRINGFIELD (R) — The White House Thursday said a Soviet plan to donate a controversial radar complex in Siberia to its Academy of Sciences would not alter the U.S. view that it violated a 1972 superpower treaty. But the Reagan administration welcomed a Soviet proposal to destroy two other radar sites that the United States also believes violates the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty. White House spokesman B.J. Cooper told Reuters. The Soviet radar complex at Krasnoyarsk "is a significant violation of a central element of the ABM treaty. It must be corrected in a verifiable manner that meets U.S. criteria," Cooper said. "What the Soviets do with the site once they have corrected the violation in an acceptable manner is their business," he added.

'U.N. Council should add members'

NEW YORK (R) — Four regional members should be added to the U.N. Security Council to improve the representation of such nations as Japan, India and Brazil, a private U.N. support organisation said Thursday. The recommendation was made by the U.S. United Nations Association in an annual report on American priorities for the world body. Organisation Chairman Elliot Richardson, a former U.S. attorney general, said the present Security Council membership of five permanent and 10 rotating members "does not adequately reflect world power realities." As a result, he told a news briefing, four seats should be added, one for each of the world's major regions. Under the plan, the two largest powers in a region would alternate in filling its seat. The largest powers at present are India and Japan in Asia, West Germany and Italy in Europe, Brazil and Mexico in South America and Egypt and Nigeria in Africa.

Euro-parliament wants more power

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Parliament Thursday asked for more power, complaining that "European parliamentary democracy is very weak" and suggesting it might adopt a new European treaty. The European legislators, who were reviewing the European Single Act, the first major change in the founding European Economic Community's (EEC) treaty, said they were thinking of taking a "decisive step" towards a European political union by adopting a new treaty. European parliamentarians said "competences being transferred to the community by the national parliaments are not subject to adequate powers on the part of the European parliament." They told the commission — the EEC's policy-making body — that it should withdraw any draft law which has been rejected by the parliament. They said this would "ensure that community legislation, like national legislation, is acceptable to the elected representative chosen by the electorate specifically to ensure democratic control."

Moscow mission bars reporters

MOSCOW (R) — Correspondents for Moscow's top two newspapers were ejected from a Communist Party meeting at the Soviet trade mission in Laos by officials angry at their criticism of its work. Pravda said Friday. The party daily said the two journalists, the Pravda man in Laos and the correspondent of the government newspaper Izvestia, had been thrown out on the orders of the mission's party secretary. "He behaved like a big boss who can do anything he wants without appeal," Pravda correspondent Anatoly Sheludko said in a report from Vientiane, the Laotian capital.